



# UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9  
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

MARCH, 2011



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# *NEWS FLASH!*

# GARY BURDETTE

# NAMED MMR 457!

While we were all expecting to see Gary named a Master Model Railroader after he completed his Prototype Scene with his recreation of Thurmond, WV, it should come as no surprise, at least in hindsight, that he has accumulated enough points to earn the Association Volunteer certificate. As his seven certificates are distributed among all four major categories, he is now the Coal Division's third Master Model Railroader. Let's all join in to congratulate Gary on this major accomplishment!

## SPECIAL NOTICES

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. This applies to all Coal Division members.

The National also has an issue, this applies only to Coal Division members residing in Kentucky and Ohio. It seems the address to which the ballots are to be returned is incomplete. The correct address is:

NMRA Ballot Committee  
c/o Skingco Services, LLC  
33530 1st Way S. **Suite 102**  
Federal Way, WA 98003-7332

## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

### Bob Weinheimer MMR, Superintendent

The long wait for the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library collection to appear on the internet is over! In late February the images started to appear, go to [archive.nmra.org](http://archive.nmra.org) for a look. Only about 5,000 of the more than 100,000 images have been posted but there are many different types of materials available. Photos of modern equipment are available, similar materials are available elsewhere at no cost. On the other hand, car and locomotive diagrams, photos of much older equipment, maps, and building plans are available. Click on one of the thumbnail photos and you will see a slightly larger version. Move your cursor over the image and you will see a greatly magnified section of the image under the cursor. The collection is searchable by keyword and railroad.

This event is a very real and tangible benefit of NMRA membership. A high resolution copy of each

image is available for download. The cost to NMRA members is \$2. The cost to nonmembers is \$4. If one buys 20 images over the course of a year, the difference of \$40 is just over the cost (\$39) of a membership without the NMRA Magazine. Twenty nine images would save \$58, the cost of the membership with the NMRA Magazine.

If you have not done so already, please consider registering for the MCR convention, Rails of Ages. This convention promises to be a good one. The Lake Erie coast east of Cleveland has plenty of tourist opportunities for family members and the hotel is fairly new and attractive. The convention program is shaping up well with lots of tours, clinics, and other events. Check it out at [www.railsofages.org](http://www.railsofages.org).

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Gary Burdette MMR, Assistant Superintendent

My thoughts are kind of rambling this month. While it may appear I'm wandering off topic, I really am continuing my theme of finding many ways to better enjoy our hobby. So let's look at some examples of some items that have struck a cord with me recently.

Last month Larry Richards brought an HO scale flatbed truck with an antique tractor chained to it to show the membership. He plans on entering it in an upcoming model car contest. (Remember the little kit-bashed bus he had which has won a Best-of-Show?) In keeping with this auto "modeling within a hobby," his recent article, and my comments, he continues to build vehicles as a part of his model railroading. I hope some of you got to see the three books he had with him on all the old trucks from the teens through the forties. Sylvan is a more recent addition to Alloy Forms, Varney, Ulrich and all the other HO model vehicles from past and present. Keep your eyes open and, you just might find an interesting item to add to your own car or truck collection.

Larry also had an old Suydam Electronics/Diesel Horn factory he had greatly altered. You may remember the old light blue card stock with peaked burgundy roof. Larry painted his a tan stucco look with a flat tar and gravel roof which included ladders, platforms, piping, and tanks made of such things as old pill bottles. This was a nice conglomeration of parts and shapes made into a realistic industry. This reminded me of the structures I saw on Harley Smith's Ohio Northern in Chardon, Ohio. (He will be on the open house tours at the 2011 MCR Con-

vention.) He had many scratch-built card stock buildings with fuel filters, spray can lids, wire piping, spray bottle caps... the list goes on. As most of you know by now, this kind of modeling is right up my alley.

The other day, while washing dishes, I saw a small piece of card stuck to the inside of the pitcher we use for our iced tea. It was the tab from the string of a tea bag. I removed it and noticed the LIPTON logo in red with TEA in green on a formerly white, now brown, background. Wow! Here was a perfectly weathered sign. I placed it on a napkin to blot the water as a stamp collector would do. When it was dry I glued it onto the side of my wholesale grocery warehouse. Yes, it is made of card stock, what else? I cut a thick back board and thin laminate face with openings for the freight doors and windows. Those windows are made from photos found in an old *Boy's Life* magazine from the sixties explaining how to build a structure for your model railroad. (Unmutilated, the magazine might currently be worth \$20.00.) The building is covered with brick paper from the "Brickstreet" computer program and is printed in the old brownstone brick color. This is just another example of trying various techniques with which to experiment and enjoy.

Whether you use tin cans or auto oil filters for fuel tanks, weed blossoms for trees, or the fur off of a pair of "Lion King" house slippers, anything you do or model can be part of the over all fun and pleasure derived from our hobby.

## THE PASSENGER MANIFEST

### Coal Division Membership Information

John Harris, Membership Manager

The first batch of name badges was delivered to all those in attendance at the February division meeting who ordered them. A couple of additional members ordered badges on the spot and I made a typo or two that generated a couple of redos. That said, the second batch will be delivered at the upcoming March meeting at Lin's. Those, as well as the ones not previously picked up, will be available before the meeting. Don't forget your \$10. Anyone who has not ordered one is encouraged to do so soon as I only look to make one more order.

I have been looking at other opportunities to enhance the member benefit of being part of the NMRA and particularly Division 9. An obvious one is of course the fellowship. That is the most often mentioned benefit listed in surveys done nationally. I suspect that our division would echo that sentiment. I certainly enjoy the many friendships I have developed as a direct result of participation in the Coal Division. Perhaps second in the top ten list of member benefits is the access to information. I feel that again, the division does pretty well on this point. The monthly clinics certainly provide our members with quality information and "how to" insight on model railroad techniques. I have picked up some tidbit of information at every one of those clinics I have attended.

Another area that national does a pretty good job of is providing access. Access to links to model railroad layouts across the country is one of my favorite parts of the NMRA website. Looking at photos of what others have done, either on the website or in the *NMRA MAGAZINE* is one of the most inspiring parts of the hobby. Now while the Coal Division's web site ranks up there with any division across the country and our Up the Hol-

ler takes a back seat to no one, we don't have the resources to compete with national on this one. Or do we?

Division Superintendent and Webmaster, Bob Weinheimer, has suggested (make that begged) members to submit photos of their layouts for inclusion on both the web site and the newsletter. I see this, too, as a member benefit. Not only is the a benefit to the members who can now enjoy seeing these picture and become inspired to enhance their own layouts or at least start one, it is also a benefit to the posting member. It gives them exposure and an opportunity to showcase their own talents. It is also a chance to gain credit for publishing to those interested in certificates and MMR status. Perhaps the biggest benefit to the posting member, however, is creating the need to finish that project that has been setting on the workbench or scenery that is not quite done.

If more of us can get off the couch and get some things done, perhaps we can post a few more pictures of layouts on the Coal Division website. It might even lead to the creation of an article or two for Up the Holler. If enough of us get behind the camera and document work already done, I am sure that Division 9 can be a significant source of inspiration to anyone who ventures into our domain.

And one last thought. We are still looking for volunteers to help man the table at the Colis P. Huntington Model Train Show at the Dunbar Parks and Recreation Community Center in Dunbar on April 1st, thru the 3rd. Handouts and information will be available for distribution to the public promoting NMRA and Division 9.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Mike Reynolds Elkview, WV  
Herbert Parsons Huntington, WV

As a reminder, please take a moment to introduce yourself to anybody you don't know at one of our meetings. You may end up welcoming a new member or making a prospective member feel right at home.

### HELP NEEDED!

As noted above, we will have a table at the train show in Dunbar April 1, 2, and 3. The show is open 5 PM to 8 PM April 1, 9 AM to 7 PM April 2, and 11 AM to 4 PM April 3. The show is at the Dunbar Recreation Center.

This is a great opportunity to promote the Coal Division and to earn some credit toward the Association Volunteer certificate. Please contact John Harris at [membership@coaldivision.org](mailto:membership@coaldivision.org) or 304 345-0405 and offer your time.

## COAL DIVISION MARCH MEETING

The next meeting of the Coal Division will be Saturday March 12 at Lin Young's home. The clinic will be the operation of Lin's Grafton and Greenbrier. The trains will start running at Noon, the meeting will start at 2 PM. After the meeting train running will resume until Lin feels it's time to stop. Our contest is Freight Cars. Bring along your pride and joy. Share with us how you got it to its present state. We should have judges present so if you have any models that require judging for Achievement Program purposes bring them along.

For those coming from West Virginia, Lin offers these directions. Cross the Ohio River on US 35. Turn

South on Ohio Route 7 through Gallipolis to Ohio Route 141. Turn west on Ohio 141 go exactly 1.5 miles to Debbie Drive on the right. House is on the 1<sup>st</sup> corner of Debbie Drive and Ohio141. Antique brick front with gray siding, flag pole in front yard and garage doors facing 141.

From other points in Ohio, find your way to Ohio Route 7 then see the directions above.

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

The [X2011 West NMRA National Convention site](#) went "live" in January, allowing online registration and online selection and payment for tours, events, meals, and even Convention merchandise! This is the *first time ever* that a Convention committee has provided complete online registration and tour signup. Even OpSIG and LDSIG signups are being handled online. Easy, fast, and you immediately know if a tour or event is sold out. Hotel reservations are also being done online through the Convention website. The Convention website is [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org)

The "[Members Only](#)" section of our website is getting very close to opening to the public. In addition to some content we're preparing right now, we're also looking for some ideas from NMRA members of things we can add to that section. If you or your members have some ideas, please forward them to Bob Robbins at [mar-rob17@optonline.com](mailto:mar-rob17@optonline.com).

- Just a reminder that there are still several prints of our [75th Anniversary Painting](#) available for sale. The prints measure 30"x20" and are signed and numbered. The price is \$150 plus shipping and handling, and can be ordered by calling Headquarters.

- Two "new" [model railroad podcasts](#) have popped

up within the past several months. One is "Model Rail Radio," and features the NMRA's own Board Member Clark Kooning as a regular guest. Shows run from 20 minutes to three hours and cover a wide range of topics. You can find out more about that podcast at [www.modelrailradio.com](http://www.modelrailradio.com). Another podcast, hosted by Trevor Marshall and Jim Martin, features two in-depth interviews in a concise, 20-minute period. Find out more at [www.themodelrailwayshow.com](http://www.themodelrailwayshow.com). Both podcasts can be downloaded via iTunes.

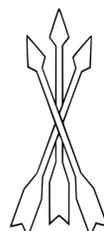
Just a reminder that we continue to run a "[Help Wanted](#)" ad in *NMRA Magazine*. We've already filled several positions, thanks to generous volunteers. But we still need help. Here are the spots we're hoping to have volunteers fill:

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

**Travel specialist**, preferably a professional travel agent, with experience setting up and organizing group tours. Time commitment: several hours per month.

## MEETING MINUTES

The February meeting minutes were unavailable at press time, look for them in the April issue.



## THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

Tony Puccini, President  
6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705  
[puccinibaj@hotmail.com](mailto:puccinibaj@hotmail.com)

## 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. It may appear that February's count is down a but February was a short month. On a per day basis February was even busier than January 2011.

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.

I received a note from a member asking about having the contest photos from the convention posted on the web site. I am looking into that and will need permission from the photographer. I will make that request shortly then get to work on that effort. Thank you for the suggestion.

March	7087
April	7780
May	9947
June	4586
July	4536
August	5087
September	4589
October	5025
November	5056
December	5658
January 2011	5906
February 2011	5533

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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.. See the note on page 4 for full details including directions.

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.



Ed Keith, MMR  
President  
Chesapeake, OH

**Grafton and Greenbrier**

**Lin Young, President**

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



Jerry Doyle, President  
Barboursville, WV

**CRESCENT VALLEY**



**SHAMOKIN DIVISION**

DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN  
SUMMERSVILLE, WV  
[DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET](mailto:DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET)  
304-872-7262



**HINTON DIVISION**

Gary Burdette - Superintendent  
Point Pleasant WV



**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY**

**THOMAS SUBDIVISION**

**RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT**

[RUSSEL22@MSN.COM](mailto:RUSSEL22@MSN.COM)

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

Friday February 25 started as one of those usual days. In my case Fridays are laundry days but early that morning the phone rang. It was Gary Burdette returning a call from the previous evening. I told Gary I had been thinking about the points he was earning toward Association Volunteer and where I thought he stood. I had concluded that he would earn that certificate late this year leading to his MMR in case he did not complete his Prototype Scene efforts. It turns out that Gary was thinking along the same lines but had a few points that I had overlooked. Indeed, he had so many that it appeared that he would meet the goal far sooner than I had expected. He was uncertain about a few more but research later that day turned up more than enough to qualify. Alas, some of those were for open houses at Lin Young's Grafton and Greenbrier that only Lin could verify with his signature.

A quick round of emails with Frank Koch, the fellow who approves these things, and phone calls to Lin quickly led to us learning that Gary would be MMR 457 before the weekend would end. What a day! Congratulations Gary!

Late in the weekend we received word from NMRA President Mike Brestel that he plans to attend the MCR Convention in April and would be happy to present Gary with his certificate and plaque at the banquet.

Let Gary's Association Volunteer example be a guide to you. You have heard me mention the low hanging fruit that is easy to reach. Read over the requirements for the various certificates and you may be pleasantly surprised to see how far along you might be. In Gary's case he was there but didn't quite realize it..



Bob presents Dave Stout with his Scenery certificate.

Thanks to Andy Cummings for removing the unsightly backdrop (and part of my right leg).

# PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

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

**Alleghany & New River Road**  
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**John Harris, Chief Engineer**  
AandNRR@aol.com



**Midland Atlantic**  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
[tony765@aol.com](mailto:tony765@aol.com)

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



**PIPESTEM BASEMENT  
DIVISION (HO)  
DAN MULHEARN**  
304-466-9155  
[danninal@earthlink.net](mailto:danninal@earthlink.net)



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

**Mark Maynard, President**  
Portsmouth, OH

**Editor's note: At least four Coal Division members have made Silver Level contributions to the Diamond Club. Why not become the next contributor?**

## 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](http://www.nmra.org/diamondclub) or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



## 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](http://www.nmra.org). Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

**We make it even more fun.**  
www.nmra.org  
423-892-2846



## 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](http://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  
423-892-2846



Robert Weinheimer MMR  
398 Mount View Dr  
Charleston, WV 25314

## Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

If you received this news-  
letter 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@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)  
to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up The  
Holler.

March 12, 2011  
Lin Young's Home  
Gallipolis, OH

April 9, 2011  
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV

May 14, 2011  
Dave Stout's Home  
Parkersburg, WV

June 11, 2011  
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV