



# UP THE HOLLER

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



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Gary Burdette was presented with his Master Model Railroader Certificate at the recent MCR convention banquet.



Gary is congratulated by MCR President Dick Briggs.



Gary receives congratulations from all Master Model Railroaders in attendance at the banquet.

Both photos by Lin Young.

## HEAD OF THE HOLLER

### Bob Weinheimer MMR

As I write this the Rails of Ages convention has just ended. As about a dozen or so Coal Division members can testify, Division 5 put on a great show. It was even greater because we could just enjoy it without having to work hard to put on the show as we did last year. Our attendance at the convention was clearly the winner with about 20% of our members attending. Of course, the host division probably had more. One of the things some organizations do is to give some sort of prize for the attendee who traveled the greatest distance to the meeting. Mid Central Region conventions don't routinely do this although I was keeping an eye on last year's registrations just in case somebody came from afar. This year there was an attendee from Perth in extreme southwestern Australia. If you look at a globe, you will see that Perth is the most distant piece of dry land on the entire planet from this part of the United States. The fellow was a bit of a ringer, he was working in Cleveland on a temporary assignment for his employer.

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, Coal Division members once again swept the modeling contest at the convention. Congratulations are due to Gary Burdette, Larry Richards, Dan Kennedy, and Anthony Parrish for recognition of their modeling skills by the contest judges and the convention attendees.

The convention marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the host, Division 5. There was a great display of railroad memorabilia from that year. I did see something of interest to us: a two bay hopper lettered "MCR Convention, Huntington, WV, 1976". Did I get a picture? No, I was a bit sleep deprived and failed to do so.

The last event of the convention, the Saturday evening banquet, was very special to all of us. Gary Burdette was presented with his Master Model Railroader certificate by MCR President Dick Briggs. He was then congratulated by a receiving line of all MMRs present at the banquet. See the photos on the front page.

I close with the sad news that while we all had fun the weekend of the convention, others did not. On April 29 we received a special NMRA InfoNet:

As you have undoubtedly heard, there has been a rash of devastating tornadoes all across the southern part of the country. Unfortunately, Chattanooga was not immune. A tornado ripped through the city on Wednesday, taking some of our Headquarters shingles with it. Much of the city is without electricity, and there are trees, fences, and power lines down all over. Many roads and highways are closed.

Fortunately all of our staff members are unharmed. However Chief Administrative Officer Jenny Hendricks had her house picked up, rooms ripped open, and the roof blown off.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all of our staff, especially Jenny.

Please note that NMRA business will be interrupted for several days until things get back to a semblance of normality. If your call or problem can wait, please do so.

### CENTRAL DISTRICT DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

The election results are in and Pete Magoun MMR has been elected to the Central District Director position on the NMRA BOD. Congratulations to Pete!

Our favorite son, Lin Young, reports that in spite of losing the election he feels very honored to have been asked to run for the office.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

See the map and meeting description on page 6 for details of our May meeting.

June will take us back to West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley, WV. Jerry Doyle will present a clinic on a topic we don't know yet but there is no doubt he will come up with something interesting. The contest will be on line structures.

## THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Gary J. Burdette MMR

"STEEL IS KING!" Steel is King in Division 9 this May as this is the title of our spring meeting in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe have teamed up to host the get-together, luncheon, and layout tours with the overall theme proclaiming the importance of steel to the development of the region and the focus of their respective layouts and modeling interests. They have worked hard getting ready for us and are excited about the event being held at their end of the division this month. Moving around the division so we may visit different areas and include members from all parts of the Coal Division was the brainchild of our super, Bob Weinheimer. Giving the meet a title, something new to our group, was Dave's and Paul's creation derived from their enthusiasm for their hobby and wanting to share that with the rest of us. We have been talking about the participation in and friendships developed from activities focused around our mutual enjoyment of model railroading. So, come to Parkersburg where, at least for one Saturday in May, Steel is King!

I really like the idea of a title or theme for our meeting(s). Great idea, guys. Maybe we can do more of this. Steel is quite appropriate for this month. First, a look on our web site will give you a preview of what you will see on the layout visits. Both Dave and Paul are well represented on the layout page. Each man has modeled the steel industry in bold fashion. There are similarities and striking differences to what each has achieved. The interesting thing about heavy industry is that, while there is a basic structure to certain processes, every site seems to have its own particular, specific look as the plant was designed, built, and altered to meet the exact needs for the individual company and/or locale. Thus, the resulting buildings are the same but different. You will see this and the surrounding business, residential, and commercial locations that have been modeled. Dave has captured the Ohio Valley area and Paul takes you to Pittsburgh. Many may remember Andy Blenko's clinic on infrastructure at our 2010 MCR Convention. As a civil engineer, he is not only interested in what makes a scene a scene, but has the professional training to go with his studies. He has been

quite complimentary of both men's modeling accomplishments. Something well worth seeing!

A second item of interest is information I found on the Parkersburg chamber of commerce web site. They have a number of photos depicting locations that were or are currently found around the city. One place of personal note is a colorized post card of the old shovel plant (formerly True-Temper and later Ames) at which my father and grandfather worked back in the day. It was an old brick building with large industrial windows and a tall brick stack. An old AHM factory or Design Preservation kit might make for a good representation. So, too, you will find the Oil and Gas Museum, the Blennerhasset Island and mansion tour, and an old Civil War redoubt (fort) overlooking the city. History abounds in the area. At Marietta, Ohio one finds many museums and artifacts depicting the earliest settlement. There is much to see.

I hope to have a few photos on the monthly mini-clinic poster board of the old Vanadium Company plant at Graham Station, W.Va., Malleable Iron at Point Pleasant, and the Union Carbide facility at Alloy, W.Va. Also, I have some metal samples (ie: chromium, ferro-alloy, etc.) from Vanadium and a couple other things to display. I worked at the Vanadium facility for a while in the late 1960s. It was an interesting operation. I was fortunate to tour Armco Steel in 1977 and was fascinated by the rolling mill. That same kind of experience is in the offing at this upcoming meeting. If anyone has any show-and-tell artifacts they would like to bring, it will be much appreciated and add to the overall enjoyment of the day.

This meeting is shaping up to be something special with a number of guests from the local model railroad club, old friends from Division 6, and many of us who typically attend. It seems as if Division 9 is continuing to grow, develop, and improve as a direct result of the talents and efforts of all our members. I encourage you all to come out and join in the fun as we celebrate "Steel is King" in the Coal Division!

Alleghany & 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



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



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



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

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

Plans for **The Gallery Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum** are moving into high gear. To date, organizing and fund raising actions have raised two pledges of matching funds from anonymous NMRA member donors. One donation is for \$50,000 and the other is for \$250,000. Current plans call for the exhibit to be opened by the end of 2012. You'll find out all the details of the exhibit in the May issue of *NMRA Magazine*.

A special **"Carpet Cutting Ceremony"** (the indoor equivalent of a Ground Breaking Ceremony) for the Gallery Exhibit will be held on Thursday evening during the x2011 Convention. All are invited.

Speaking of x2011, if you haven't yet registered for the X2011 West NMRA Convention to be held in Sacramento in July, you should register now! If you have already registered, it is time to sign up for tours and operating sessions before they fill up! For more information and/or to register or sign up for tours, go to [www.x2011west.org](http://www.x2011west.org).

The "Members-Only" area of [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) is currently open to all members. Although content is still being added, right now the area houses copies of all Region and Division newsletter articles cited within the last year by Jim Zinser in his bi-monthly "Division Business Car / NMRA@Home" column in *NMRA Magazine*. In addition the "NMRA magazine classics" section of the Members-Only area will contain classic articles from past issues of *Scale Rails* magazine and *The Bulletin*. We'll be adding new material all the time so check back often.

The NMRA remains active with the two model railroad podcasts mentioned in a previous edition of the InfoNet News. The NMRA is now sponsoring "The Model Railway Show" podcast, produced by well known modelers Trevor Marshall and Jim Martin. Their website is [www.themodelrailwayshow.com](http://www.themodelrailwayshow.com). And Board Member Clark Kooning, along with other NMRA members, continues to appear as a regular guest on the "Model Rail Radio" podcast. Their website is at

[www.modelrailradio](http://www.modelrailradio). Both of these podcasts can be downloaded directly from their websites, or via iTunes.

We're still looking for stories of what your Division or Region does for **National Model Railroad Month**. Write a 200-word summary and send it to me at this email address. Thanks.

**Notice of 2012 elections**. The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects, Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at [http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra\\_organization.html](http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html) for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, [davoss@pvmtengr.com](mailto:davoss@pvmtengr.com), no later than June 15, 2011.

An error crept into last month's InfoNet News: The **Summer Board meeting** will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention on Friday, July 1, 2011 (not Thursday, June 30 as previously reported). The meeting is usually held at the Convention hotel, but the exact start time and room number will be announced when available. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.

The NMRA is looking to identify and recognize any **model railroad clubs that were formed in 1935 or earlier** that are still in existence. We would like the name of the club and when it was founded. A picture from the early years would be appreciated. Send the information to Dave Thornton - NMRA Vice President of Administration, Email [DThorn5552@aol.com](mailto:DThorn5552@aol.com) or mail to 2027 Jeffrey Drive, Troy, MI 48085-3816.



### SHAMOKIN DIVISION

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[DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET](mailto:DENNAPAT@VERIZON.NET)  
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CRUSTY  
MOUNTAIN  
AND  
WILOBY  
SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President  
Portsmouth, OH

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT

DIVISION (HO)  
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## CONTEST RESULTS



The category for April was passenger cars. David Robinette took first place with his scratch built coach. He tells us he was working to reproduce a Hocking Valley coach that is unlike anything commercially available. He did extensive work to get the window arrangement as it is on the prototype.

The photographer, Bob Weinheimer, apologizes for the less than perfect photograph.

### REGIONAL CONVENTION CONTEST RESULTS

Once again, Coal Division members did an outstanding job at the convention contest. In the judged contest, our members took 12 of the 27 awards presented. This is a little bit off past performances but still outstanding. Below are the judged model awards earned by our members.

#### **Diesel Locomotives**

Larry Richards, First Place  
Anthony Parrish, Second Place  
Anthony Parrish, Third Place

#### **Freight Cars**

Gary Burdette, First Place

#### **Non Revenue Equipment**

Dan Kennedy, First Place  
Gary Burdette, Second Place

#### **Cabooses**

Gary Burdette, First Place

#### **Passenger Cars**

Gary Burdette, First Place

#### **On Line Structures**

Dan Kennedy, First Place

#### **On Line Displays**

Larry Richards, Second Place

#### **Off Line Displays**

Larry Richards, Second Place  
Larry Richards, Third Place

The popular vote results are even more outstanding. Anthony, Dan, Gary, and Larry collectively won 8 of the

11 modeling categories. There are no second or third places awards in the popular vote contest.

#### **BEST OF SHOW**

Dan Kennedy

#### **Diesel Locomotives**

Anthony Parrish

#### **Passenger Cars**

Gary Burdette

#### **Cabooses**

Gary Burdette

#### **Non Revenue Equipment**

Gary Burdette

#### **On Line Structures**

Dan Kennedy

#### **Off Line Structures**

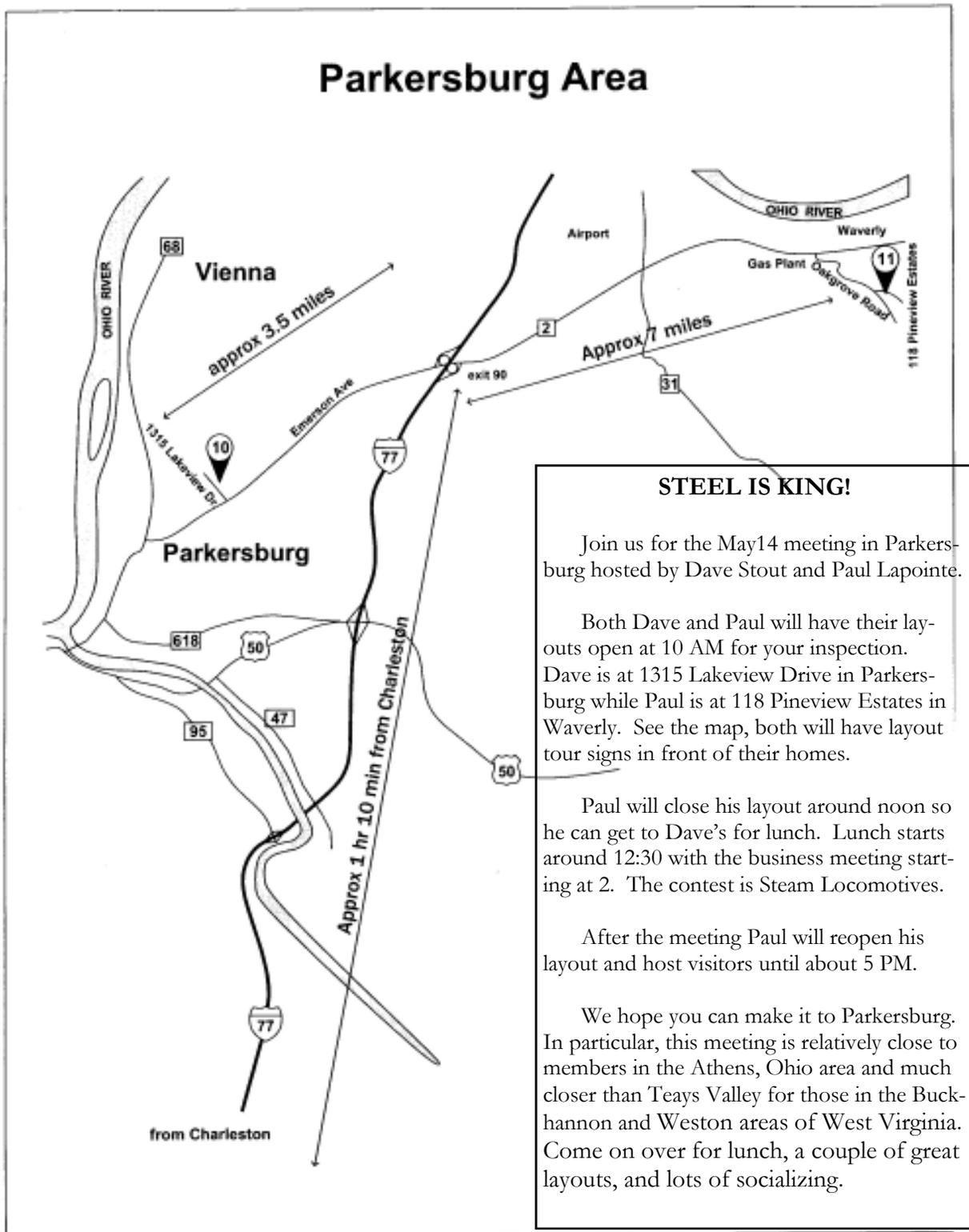
Larry Richards

#### **Off Line Displays**

Larry Richards

**The Blue Lantern Award** is given by Mid Eastern Region member Terry Nesbit. Terry defines the requirements then makes his determination of the winner. This year's winner was Dan Kennedy.

Congratulations to Anthony, Dan, Gary, and Larry for their outstanding achievements. The modeling skills of these gentlemen were well recognized by the convention attendees as well as the contest judges.



**NMRA DIVISION 9, MCR**  
**Meeting minutes, February 12, 2011**  
**(The missing minutes have been found!)**

**Welcome and Introduction:** Division Superintendent Bob Weinheimer called the meeting to order at 2:00PM at West Virginia Hobby & Craft, Teays Valley. Members present introduced themselves.

**Division Clerk Report:** The minutes of the January meeting as published in the newsletter were approved on a motion by Nathan Robinette, seconded and passed. In the absence of the Division Clerk there was no treasury report.

**Superintendent's Report:** Bob mentioned that the zip code for the election ballot as published in *The Kingpin* was incorrect. This is the ballot for the Mid Central Region election. It was noted that the correct zip code had been published in our newsletter.

There was a call for a volunteer to chair a group to help build a small layout for kids in conjunction with Sherry at Nitro Hobby. Bob asked for possible volunteers to give this some consideration.

Bob Weinheimer, Lin Young and Dan Kennedy attended the January 29<sup>th</sup> memorial for Dean Freytag.

Registration for the MCR convention is coming along with about 120 signed up so far. It was suggested to get your registration and room reservations done sooner rather than later.

There is a new effort underway to update NMRA Data Sheets. These will be available shortly in a new part of the nmra.org web site which will be for members only. Committees of subject matter experts are being formed to update specific data sheets.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report:** Gary spoke on his continuing efforts regarding our Education Program. He is currently developing plans for "3D" Education displays as well as on line material. It was suggested to do one day "shows" in appropriate venues. Gary invites all to get involved.

**Webmaster:** The "hits" continue to grow. Most viewers look at layout photos.

**Achievement Program:** Dan Kennedy's layout was judged for scenery; all he has to do is write it up. As noted in the newsletter Dan is close on structures and cars. We even have him thinking about motive power. Keep an eye on Dan, we can see him as an MMR in the not too distant future.

**Nominations:** No report.

**Membership Chair:** John Harris reports two new Division 9 members, one of whom, Mike Reynolds was present at the meeting. John mentioned the need for volunteers for the Dunbar Show booth.

**Up The Holler Editor Report:** Things seem to be proceeding apace. There is a need for submissions and "pike ad" fees are due.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** Member Dennis McGeeney has gone back to pushing an 18 wheeler and called in from the road to pass on his good wishes. Dave Stout announced that next Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> would be the date of the Parkersburg Club open house.

**Next Meetings:**

March 12 at Lin Young's G&G in Gallipolis, doors open at noon, meeting at 2PM followed by operations.

April 9 at West Virginia Hobbies & Crafts

May 14 at Dave Stout's home in Parkersburg. Dave will provide lunch. Paul Lapointe's layout will also be open to members.

June 11 at West Virginia Hobbies & Crafts

**Contest: Diesel Locomotives**

**Clinic:** Bob Weinheimer practiced the two clinics he is preparing for the MCR Convention

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Mulhearn, Acting Division Clerk

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

We have photos of Gary Burdette MMR being recognized at the recent convention banquet on the front page but here we see Gary receiving his Association Volunteer certificate at the April meeting.

Once again I thank Andy Cummings for working his magic on the background of Jerry Doyle's photo.



## NMRA DIVISION 9, MCR Meeting minutes, April 9, 2011

Meeting called to order at 2:00 at WV Hobbies & Crafts

### Welcome and Introductions

### Division Clerk Report

Minutes from March meeting were not available.

Treasury – balance is approx \$8450.

### Superintendent's Report

Bob mentioned the mailing label donation program – this is a fund raising project for the national organization that has been very successful historically. He asked that if your circumstances permit, consider donating.

NMRA Finances – There was a surplus of \$300,000 that was not budgeted, it was a donation from the estate of a deceased member. The donation was applied to the NMRA investment account as partial replacement for the funds lost under earlier NMRA leadership.

### May Coal Division Meeting

Layouts will be open at 10, lunch at 12:30 at Dave's, meeting at 2, layouts open again until 5. Both layouts are well worth a visit, both feature steel industry. Dave's also features nice city scenes, Paul's features interesting benchwork techniques. Steel modelers from Columbus are also invited in also former NMRA members from the Parkersburg area. We hope to reenlist them. Paul has thanked us for reaching out to Parkersburg so let's be there in force.

### September Coal Division Meeting

This will be a joint meeting with Division 6. This time they are not our guests, it is their meeting as well. Bob Lee (Supt. Div 6) and Bob Weinheimer will work out some sort of agenda that lets both groups see how the other does things. Bob asked for ideas for this meeting. Issues of cost allocation and swap meet profits are to be determined.

### Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary mentioned Paul Lapointe's use of mirrors on his layout. He also discussed the educational efforts. He showed some literature from Walther's and some of his own how-to modeling materials.

### Webmaster

March traffic was down a bit from recent months. We can expect an upturn based on comments in NMRA Magazine about our newsletter articles

### Achievement Program

Presentation of Association Volunteer certificate to Gary Burdette

Bob mentioned the need to keep documentation, let us know if you need help.

### Nominations Chair

No report

### Membership Chair

John thanked the members who helped man the table at the Dunbar show. Having the Railpass and old issues of *Scale Rails* is helpful during these kinds of events. We have one strong prospect from this show. John asked members to submit their reasons for joining the NMRA. He would like to use these for future recruiting efforts.

### Raffle

No action or report.

### "Up The Holler" Editor Report

Dan asked for materials for future issues. Two articles from recent issues of *Up The Holler* were mentioned in Division Business Car column in *Scale Rails*.

### Old Business

### New Business

### Announcements

Nathan Robinette mentioned the Hocking Valley will be operating Easter trains.

Bob asked for clinic volunteers for future meetings.

### Next Meetings

April 28 – May 1 Geneva, OH MCR Convention

May 14 Parkersburg, WV at Dave Stout's home, Paul's layout also open.

June 11 West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts

### Contest – Passenger Cars

Clinic – Gary Burdette *C&O Coal Docks*

**Grafton and Greenbrier**

**Lin Young, President**

Debbie Drive

Gallipolis, OH 45631

[www.graftonandgreenbrier.com](http://www.graftonandgreenbrier.com)

**PENNSYLVANIA  
SOUTHERN**

**Bob Weinhelmer, President**

398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314

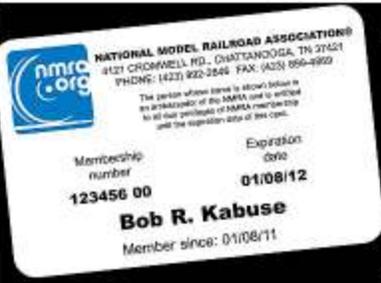
[www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com](http://www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com)

## CONVENTION CONTEST PHOTOS

### Photos by Anthony Parrish

Anthony Parrish took a few pictures in the contest room; these models are the ones that got the most attention from the attendees. The blast furnace is the work of Coal Division member Dan Kennedy. This model took first place for on line structures in the judged contest and was Best of Show in the popular vote contest. The ore boat scene is the work of MCR President Dick Briggs MMR. The Hulett's really work as does the navigation lighting on the boat. Dick's model won first place for on line displays in the judged contest as well as the popular vote contest. Congratulations are in order to both Dan and Dick for their outstanding modeling efforts.





**The best gift card you'll ever give.**  
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When you give the gift of an NMRA membership, you're giving someone a gift they can use all year long. From accessing our online photo archives to getting special deals on books, to attending Division and Region meets, an NMRA member has a wealth of benefits to take advantage of.

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This year, give a card they'll treasure all year!



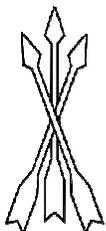
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**Midland Atlantic**  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
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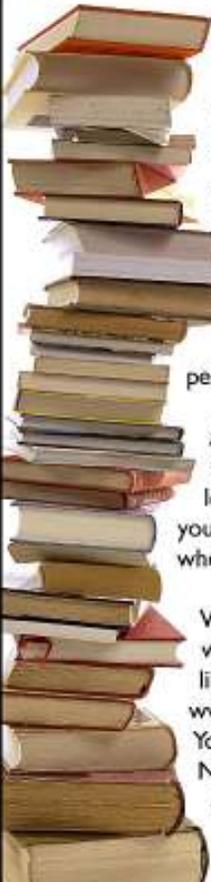
Ed Keith, MMR  
President  
Chesapeake, OH



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**CRESCENT VALLEY**  
Jerry Doyle, President  
Barboursville, WV



**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](http://www.nmra.org). You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.



**We make it even more fun.**  
www.nmra.org  
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Check it all out!

**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.

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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](http://www.nmra.org) and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing.

Then, get that popcorn ready.



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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@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org) to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

## Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

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

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

July 9, 2011  
Clint Foster's Home  
Ronceverte, WV