



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

June, 2011



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

It sounds like I missed a great May Coal Division meeting. From all accounts, the meeting was well attended by friends and possible new members. As many of you know, my son's wedding was that day. I trust you can understand why I was there and not in Parkersburg!

Last month I mentioned seeing an MCR convention car from the 1976 Huntington convention at the recent convention. Dale Smith, convention co-chair, was kind enough to take a picture and send it to me, see it below. Does anyone know if there was an MCR convention hosted by Division 9 between 1976 and 2010?

Many of you with high speed internet access may be aware of Model Railroad Hobbyist, a monthly magazine distributed electronically at no cost to the reader. Check it out at www.mrhmag.com. This publication contains many features unavailable in a printed magazine including embedded video clips and model photos that can be rotated to see all sides. These features meant the publication is quite large, nearly 100 MB, making download via dial-up service an undesirable situation. There are lighter versions but they lack the full features.

In order to get more people to see the magazine and thereby command higher advertising rates, the publisher tells me that handing out data DVDs containing the magazine is not only permitted, it is encouraged. Indeed, it was suggested I put all issues to date onto DVDs for distribution to those with dial-up or no internet access. My thought is to ask for \$1 to cover the cost of the DVDs but I would donate that fee to the Coal Division. I plan to prepare a DVD containing all issues through June, 2011 with updates every 6 months or so. If you want a DVD, please send me an email, call, or tell me at an upcoming meeting.



THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

For one day, at least, "Steel was King" in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Everyday, model railroading is "King" in the Coal Division, the Mid-Central Region, and beyond. I am, of course, speaking of our love of trains and the experiences we share in the hobby.

Our Superintendent covered the 2011 MCR Convention last month, and he gave you a good idea of what those of us in attendance enjoyed. As we have been looking at getting more involved in our hobby over the last several months, I'd like to add a personal note which went beyond the scope and theme of the get-together. These "extras" which come up, often unexpectedly, all add to the satisfaction one feels as he participates in a program or event. The natural chain of events of renewing old friendships and acquaintances is a given. Along with this goes the opportunity to meet new people and see new things. We did all this and more.

For me the trip up north brought back memories of my youth as we travelled to see family in Cleveland and Lorraine, Ohio. The ore boats were the biggest memory from the period. Thus, the first time I saw Dick Briggs' model while visiting his layout, I was taken back to the "old days." His having it at the convention and revisiting the area was super! A local couple with whom I am friends grew up in Ashtabula and Conneaut respectively. It was fun to see their childhood homes. Combine this with friends, tours, and clinics and you have a bonus feature that made the trip even more worthwhile. (We also stopped at the Byesville Scenic Railroad, Zoar Separatist village, the NFL Hall of Fame, and Roscoe Village.)

Shortly after the big adventure came a smaller one, but one which was every bit as enjoyable: the May Division 9 meeting at Parkersburg. Dave Stout and Paul La-Pointe combined to make our first theme, "Steel is King," a real success through the social gathering, picnic, layout tours, and introduction of several guests. All this com-

bined to make for a special outing. The extra was the fact that I was born in the city and have relatives there. My dad and grandfather worked at the old shovel plant doing foundry-type steel work. My grandparents lived just a couple of blocks from Dave's house. It was like going home.

Finally, a few days later, I went to Bill Greer's house up the road from here. You may remember Bill as one of the guys who helped get Division 9 back on her feet. I had a great time with Bill and David and Nathan Robinette working on the model railroad in Bill's back yard building. As a Philly boy, he has commuter service with RDCs and mainline passenger trains with E8s and GG1s. Bill and I worked in the school system for over thirty years and have made many railfan trips together (C&O 614, N&W 611, and N&W 1218). The Robinettes and I have enjoyed working on a couple of friend's layouts, going to train shows, and, of course, our membership in Division 9. This mini-outing was another plus of being a part of our group.

Every month a number of us meet to operate Lin Young's Grafton and Greenbrier and Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern. There are a number of regulars in the crew. Many times, however, there are visitors, newcomers, and old hands who only get to come by once a year. Thus, the owners of these railroads have opened their homes to anyone who wants to run trains, and the opportunity of another fantastic model railroading experience becomes available.

To you all: when you attend the meetings and events, we enjoy your company, and when you are absent, we miss you. The invitation is there for everyone to look for, seek out, those opportunities to share in the fun of some of the things which make our pastime so great.

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
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HINTON DIVISION
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WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY
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Achievement Program Bob Weinheimer MMR

In my absence last month Paul Lapointe was finally able to be formally presented with his Electrical Engineer Certificate. Congratulations to Paul, thanks to Gary for making the presentation, and thanks to Jerry Doyle for the photograph.

Dan Kennedy is moving right along on his AP efforts. After the June meeting a few of us are headed to his home for some more model judging. Dan's scenery was judged to be merit level and he is working on the write up. We had earlier miscategorized some of the items we judged as structures (they really were cars or motive power) so we need to judge a couple of more of his exquisite structures. I also hope to inspire Dan to put a motor and drive system into his coke quench car pusher so he can get credit for a scratch built locomotive.

As always, let us know if you need something judged. If it is portable, bring it to a meeting. If it cannot be moved, let us know as we are always looking for an excuse to visit layouts.



Assistant Superintendent, Gary Burdette MMR, presents Paul Lapointe with his Electrical Engineer Certificate. Photo by Jerry Doyle.

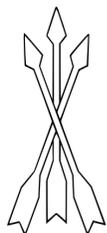
UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our June 11 meeting will take us back to West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley, WV. Jerry Doyle will present a clinic on a topic rumored to have something to do with railroading in Colorado. Jerry always seems to come up with pretty good stuff and I'm sure you won't want to miss this one.. The contest will be on line structures.

Our July 9 meeting will be hosted by Clint Foster at his home in Roceverte, WV. We managed to avoid doing this in October the same day as the street fair in Lewisburg so traffic should not be an issue. If you are a C&O fan, this meeting is a must. Clint's layout is a faithful reproduction of the C&O in the New River Gorge. Operators are standing in the middle of the river so bring your hip waders (the HO scale ones, that is). Even if you don't have C&O blue blood in your veins, you will still find the layout interesting. Clint packs lots of action into a modest area. The contest will be off line structures.

The August 13 meeting will be at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley. While the clinic has not been firmly determined, Bob Weinheimer is threatening to do the Achievement Program clinic again. If that does not sound appealing, you better come up with something else! If you have a clinic to offer, please see Dan Mulhearn. The contest will be Traction.

September 10 will find us back to Mark Maynard's in Portsmouth, Ohio for what has really become our annual picnic. This year the meeting will be a joint meeting with Division 6. Of course we will have the usual good food, swap meet, photo contest, and general good time.



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV

NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

The 2011 NMRA election results are in!

The new NMRA Canada Director will be Don Hillman, replacing Clark Kooning, MMR.

The new Central District Director will be Peter Magoun, MMR, replacing Bob Beatty, MMR.

The new Regional Advisory Council Director will be Stephen Priest, MMR, replacing Bob Ferguson.

All new Directors will take office at the Sacramento Board Meeting.

Speaking of the Summer Board meeting... this year's will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention and will begin on Friday, July 1, 2011. Current plans put the meeting in the Beavis Room in the Sacramento Grand Sheraton Hotel. Tentative starting time is 9 am. All locations and times are subject to change -- be sure to keep an eye out for updates to this information. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.

A couple of Convention reminders:

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.

Convention registrations have now passed 1500 attendees while attendance at the Advance Section over the weekend prior to the Convention is over 150 attendees... and the Convention is still 6 weeks away! If you or your members aren't registered yet, you can do it online at www.x2011west.org. You can also buy tickets for tours, sign up for operating sessions, and purchase convention cars and shirts online.

Once again, a 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 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, no later than June 15, 2011.



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NMRA DIVISION 9, MCR
Meeting minutes, "Steel is King" May 14, 2011

Meeting called to order at 2:00 at Dave Stout's house in Parkersburg, WV by Asst Super Gary Burdette with a steel hammer and anvil.

Welcome and Introductions

Gary thanked Dave and Paul for opening their layouts and Rhonda Stout for providing dinner. He thanked other attendees from the Mid-Ohio Valley Model RR Club and Division 6. Attendees introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

Minutes from April meeting were approved.
 Treasury – balance is approx \$8250.

Superintendent's Report

Bob was attending his son's wedding but he did mention via email the idea of providing Model Railroad Hobbist Magazine for a nominal charge to cover cost.

We are in need of clinics for future meetings. Gary mentioned the clinic data base and bringing in clinicians for future meetings.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Steel is King! Gary expressed his enthusiasm with the steel theme of today's meeting. Gary showed some Model Power, Lionel, and Tyco structure models for cheap and easy ways to detail your layout. He mentioned the online content and other educational efforts. He showed a picture of the 1976 Division 9 Region convention held in Huntington, WV.

Webmaster

No report.

Achievement Program

Several people are working and getting things judged. Paul Lapointe received his achievement certificate for Electrical Engineer.

Nominations Chair

No report

Membership Chair

No report.

Raffle

No action or report.

"Up The Holler" Editor Report

Dan wasn't present but Gary mentioned that members need to send items and feedback.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

Jim Ruisinger announced that the Mini-Bunch narrow gauge meeting will be held November 12 in Columbus, OH.

im invited members to come and visit Columbus.

Dave thanked everyone for coming. He showed various items that he uses for details.

Next Meetings

June 11 West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts

July 9

August 13

Contest – Steam Locomotives

First Place Jim Ruisinger Logging Mallet
 Second Place TIE Jim Heilman MDC Shay/Larry Richards C&O 4-4-0
 Third Place TIE Dave Stout 2-8-8-0/David Robinette N&W 578

Clinic – Dave Stout and Paul LaPointe's layouts

Interesting Reading For C&O Fans

The June 2011 issue of *Railroads Illustrated* which is published by the same publisher producing our own *NMRA Magazine* contains two articles which may be of interest to the C&O fans among us. The first article is about the dismantling of the "classic" C&O style cantilever signals and other types of signals in the Saint Albans area. These signals saw steam, early diesels and were a now gone icon of the C&O. The second article covers

the Piedmont Subdivision which ran from Richmond, VA to Gordonsville VA where it met the Washington sub to continue towards Charlottesville and Clifton Forge. The Piedmont was and is widely used to return empty coal and grain trains to the west. It is currently owned by CSX but leased to and dispatched and maintained by the Buckingham Branch RR. Both articles make for interesting reading for those of us who admire the old C&O.



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Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

June 11, 2011

West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

July 9, 2011

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