

### UP THE HOLLER

#### Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

#### Mid Central Region NMRA February 2012



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#### HEAD OF THE HOLLER Bob Weinheimer MMR

This is the season for NMRA elections and this year I would like to bring the national elections to your attention. At the top of the ticket is NMRA President, the only candidate is Charlie Getz. I have not met Charlie but have heard him on a podcast, I feel confident that he will do a good job as President.

There are two Vice Presidents, one for Administration, the other for Special Projects. The latter position was created in 2010 with the idea that the Vice President's job had grown to be too much for one volunteer. The Vice President of Administration is being sought by three candidates including the incumbent. Two have served on the Board of Directors; the third has served on the national level as Member Services Chairman and was on the staff of the National Train Show for a few years. I don't know any of these gentlemen and will have to consider my choice carefully. The Vice President for Special Projects has two candidates. One is the incumbent who has served at the Division and Region level prior to his appointment. The other fellow has been involved in various National functions. Again, I know neither of these fellows so the choice will be hard.

A couple of Board of Director positions that affect Coal Division members are also at stake. The At-Large North American Director position has two candidates. One is Mike Brestel, outgoing NMRA President and MCR member. Mike notes the many years of service on the Region and National levels. Mike's opponent is Miles Hale. Miles was previously the Pacific District Director. Miles has a big concern about term limits so "new and fresh thoughts" can move the NMRA forward. I see here that age old struggle between experience and continuity on one hand and new ideas on the other hand. I know and respect both of these candidates and again will have to review the balance carefully.

The last position is that of Eastern District Director. Only those members who reside in West Virginia are eligible to vote for this position. There is one candidate, the incumbent, John Roberts. Many of you know John and can appreciate his dedication to the NMRA as a former President.

We sometimes find it easy to bash the NMRA management. Keep in mind that these folks are all volunteers who dedicate their time and to some extent personal resources in their efforts to serve us. We owe it to them to carefully consider their qualifications then select the candidates we feel will be best for the NMRA. I ask that you read their statements carefully and then vote for the candidates you feel will do the best job.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The February, 2012 meeting of NMRA MCR Division 9 *The Coal Division* will be held on Saturday Feb. 11, 2012 at West Virginia Hobby & Crafts at Teays Valley, WV. Social hour and model judging, if needed, commence at 1PM and the business meeting begins at 2 PM. We will enjoy a clinic following the meeting presented by Paul LaPointe. The model contest for the month is the category of diesel locomotives. Please submit your entries and bring items for the raffle. Hope to see you there.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL Gary J. Burdette MMR

Are you a Master of Model Railroading? No, not Master Model Railroader. I'm not talking about that final aspect of the NMRA's Achievement Program where requirements are met in at least seven areas under four categories to qualify you for this top level of accomplishment. Though sort of related, it is a little different. Maybe I should call it Master of the Art of Model Railroading. Yes, I made this up, but let me explain myself. You just may be a MAMR.

Often, when the average person hears of a neighbor, friend, or relative being interested in trains, they think about the loop of track under the tree at Christmas or tacked to a board in the corner of the basement. This is fine, for any interest in trains is ok by me. However, once they explore the story by talking to or visiting the individual, it is found that there is usually much more to the tale and many levels to this "interest" of which they have heard. Modeling trains, going to flea markets and train shows, collecting memorabilia, subscribing to magazines, buying videos, rail fanning, doing research, drawing plans or pieces of art, and joining historic or modeling organizations such as the C&O Historical Society and the National Model Railroad Association are all part of the process or unofficial requirements needed to become a Master of the Art of Model Railroading.

On several occasions, members have brought some show-and-tell items to the monthly Division 9 meetings. Books, timetables, rail passes, and other items were displayed for our enjoyment. Recently, a fellow brought three metal, Christmas ornaments on railroad related themes from his boyhood home town. A locomotive and the Richlands, Va. station, brick kiln, and N&W section house were those featured this holiday season. These were purchased from the local historical society and added to the collection, giving them around seventeen, I believe. I have glass bulbs with Thurmond, Bramwell, and St. Al-

bans, W.Va. depot drawings. This is just one small aside to our overall hobby. It adds another avenue of enjoyment and satisfaction – like "Home for Christmas." And, this is one more facet of those "requirements." I'd like to see a couple moments allocated for something similar each month and added to our meeting agenda. Contact me or Bob and we'll make room for the item to be viewed and enjoyed. For some, less is more. For me, more is more! The more things we have to examine and share, the better I like it. The more activities we have, the greater the pleasure of the experience. Yes, more is more! The greater the variety of events and methods of participation, the closer you are to being a Master of the Art of Model Railroading.

Both Bob and I have received compliments from members of other divisions as to the cohesiveness our members seem to have with one another and our group. We may be small, but we are mighty. This is a high compliment because our commitment to the hobby is one of the most important requirements for success. As we continue to have good attendance at our meetings, are well represented at Regional Conventions, enter and/or display a wide variety of models at various venues, meet outside the normal times for rail trips and outings, hang out together, operate on several layouts, meet at different ends of the division, and communicate (just keeping in touch) by phone or e-mail, and a million other things, we are fulfilling those "requirements" that I have previously noted.

When asked, "Are you Masters at the Art of Model Railroading?": I say, "If you are in 'the Coal Division' you are!" (Yes, there are MAMRs in the other divisions, as well)

#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

The goal of the newsletter team is to have this document reach you by email or snail mail at least one week prior to our meetings. We typically do the layout work the Wednesday 10 days before the meeting with distribution Thursday or Friday. For example, this issue was prepared November 2. For this to happen reliably, we need al items for publication by the Monday 12 days prior to the meeting. If we don't get it on time we can't print it.

Please help us give you the most up to date information possible.

March	February 27
April	April 2
May	April 30
June	June 4

#### TRAVELS WITH DENNIS

The Coal Division members and friends are scheduled to enjoy a ride on the Potomac Eagle tourist train out of Romney, WV on Saturday June 23, 2012. Dennis McGeeney has been working hard on setting this trip up and we now have the latest information. First; we need to discuss the price. Adult riders fare is \$42.00; riders ages 6 to 16 cost \$20.00 and those under 6 are free. The current plan is for those riding to meet at 11:00AM at Mario's Restaurant at 33 S High St in Romney WV. Parking in front of the restaurant is limited. Should there be no parking spaces; please use the Romney Fire Dept parking area just adjacent to the restaurant. Please do not block any of the apparatus doors!

We will be assigned a covered train car with tables for seating. You may bring your own food, visit the snack bar on board or there will be a caterer available. Tom Rothovich, who is setting this up for us, is a frequent visitor to Dave Stout's and Paul LaPointe's layouts and is working with Dennis to make this a really special day. Our engineer will be Dave Snider, a retired CSX engineer.

Remember to bring binoculars to observe the eagles as well as cameras, sun block and drinking water. The train will depart Romney at 1:00PM and return about 4:30PM. Dennis has been designated at the bursar for this excursion and fares should be submitted to him. You may write a check to Dennis McGeeney with a note that it is for the Potomac Eagle excursion and submit to Dennis at a Division meeting or mail it to him at 509 Water St, Summersville WV 26651-1334. Dennis may be contacted at 304 872 7262. There will be a cutoff date set for submitting fares announced in the next issue of UP THE HOLLER. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Photos courtesy of Potomac Eagle



Potomac Eagle motive power



Eagle in flight as seen from train



Baby ducks as seen from train



Lin Young, President

Debbie Drive Gallipolis, OH 45631 www.graftonandgreenbrier.com



Bob Weinheimer, President

398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314 www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com

#### NMRA MCR DIVISION 9, The Coal Division Teays Valley, West Virginia January 14, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 by Supt. Bob Weinheimer.

#### Membership Chair

Bob reported we have two new members. Ken Allman and Joe Horter.

#### **Division Clerk Report**

Minutes approved as in the newsletter. Treasury report – Recent expenses were for flowers for Lin Young's service and mailing of the newsletter.

#### Travels with Dennis

Dennis discussed details of a trip to Romney, WV on June 23, 2012. Contact him at 304-872-7662 for details.

#### Superintendent Report

Bob mentioned that the Grafton and Greenbrier will continue to operate.

#### "Up The Holler" Editor Report

Dan is always looking for material.

#### Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary distributed a mock up of an educational web page titled Education Station. He mentioned details regarding the possible content.

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

Elections: Nominations for all positions were opened. No new nominations were made. Nominations were closed.

#### **Boy Scout Program**

Tony Puccini reported there had been no word back from the council as of meeting time. Jim Trivett the BSA is constructing a facility for the national jamboree near Beckley. He anticipated there would be railrelated activities and local involvement would be welcomed.

#### Announcements

David Robinette showed some Christmas ornaments of railroad related subjects in the Pomery, Ohio area.

Jerry Doyle mentioned the Grafton and Greenbrier would have an operating session on February 1, 2012.

#### Webmaster

Bob would like members to submit stories and pictures about Lin Young for a section on the website.

#### **Next Meetings**

February 11, West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts March 10, To be determined April 14, West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts

#### Achievement Program

Bob presented John Harris with the AP certificate for Association Volunteer.

#### Contest

Cabooses

#### Nominations Chair

Bill Wadsworth mentioned elections for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.
Ballots will be distributed in February. Nominations will be open through today's meeting.

#### Clinic

Gary Burdette prototype modeling.

#### **NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

It's a new year and a new InfoNet News eblast!

The Kalmbach Library's immensely popular "The Postwar Freight Car Fleet" book has sold out.

The Grand Rails 2012 Convention still has some space left for modular layouts at the National Train Show so if someone in your Division or Region wants to show the world what they've done, go to <a href="https://www.gr2012.org">www.gr2012.org</a> and click on the "Contact us" page. Have them tell the committee what they've done and the committee will get things rolling.

More Grand Rails 2012 news: The convention has some great things planned for non-rails. There's a cooking demo that will make attendees think they're watching a stand-up comedian do a cooking show and great entertainment at the luncheon in one of the most beautiful ballrooms in the country. There's also a ride on a dune schooner to see the 1100 acre Saugatuck Dunes! Have non-rails go to www.gr2012.org for all the details.

#### And some of last month's important news bears repeating:

This year <u>registration for Grand Rails 2012</u> will be handled in a new way. Instead of the large registration package inserted into *NMRA Magazine*, the full package can be downloaded from <u>www.gr2012.org</u>. Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a

registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine.

NMRA elections. The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook (available at <a href="www.nmra.org">www.nmra.org</a>). It will appear as an insert in the center of the February issue of NMRA Magazine, which will be mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012. Here are the job titles and candidates as they appear on the ballot:

President: Charles W. Getz, IV, HLM

Vice President - Administration: Howard Goodwin, Clark Kooning, MMR, and Dave Thornton

Vice President - Special Projects: Bill Kaufman and James "Lump" Lupfer

At-Large North American Director Mike Brestel and Miles Hale, MMR

Eastern District Director John Roberts, MMR, HLM

Pacific District Director Mike Bartlett, Kelly Loyd, and Rob Peterson

#### **CONTEST CORNER**

Anthony Parrish was the winner of the January contest. The subject was cabooses and Anthony brought a caboose that was heavily kitbashed from an Athearn Santa Fe style car. Photo by Jerry Doyle, touch up by Andy Cummings.



#### MEMBER PROFILE: GARY J. BURDETTE **Dennis McGeeney**

Gary J Burdette was born at Parkesburg, WV on February 4, 1951 to Bevan Burdette, an electrician and Garnet The first is a cab ride in the AMTRAK Cardinal from Burdette, a cook and secretary. This was B&O territory and no doubt influenced Gary early. Shortly afterward the family moved to New Haven, WV where Gary grew up. Gary then spent four years attending Marshall University majoring in biology and counseling. After earning his degree, Gary spent thirty five years as a teacher and counselor in the Mason County School system. In 1975 Gary married first grade teacher Janie Phillips. Gary and Janie had a son, Gary, who became a band director in Kansas. They also had a daughter, Anna, who is a full time mother at Point Pleasant, WV. Gary enjoys hunting, fishing and playing his guitar. In addition to his teaching career; Gary ran a business dealing with a sign shop, T shirt and truck lettering business. Even at this early time; Gary showed an intense interest in model railroading.

At the age of seven Gary's father showed him about basic wiring, Lincoln Log construction, and tips like using electrical tape to simulate conveyer belts. At the age of twelve; Gary got an issue of Model Railroader and a C&O calendar which got him hooked on the C&O. Gary's friend: Rick Klein; taught him casting techniques using plaster of Paris and resin.

Gary has been a member of the C&O Historical Society for thirty five years and has been very active in the society. Gary was the editor, for six years, of the Basement Subdivision of the C&O Historical Society **Magazine.** At this time Gary is a contributing editor to the magazine and is the author of the book Modeling the Chesapeake and Ohio.

Gary identifies two unforgettable events in his life. Clifton Forge, VA to Montgomery WV. The second event is an event at the Hump Back Bridge on C&O's main line west of Covington, VA in 1985. There was a luncheon catered by the chef of the Greenbrier Hotel with musical presentation by Katie Letcher and Lyle and Paul Shue.

Gary earned NMRA Master Model Railroader Certificate 457 in 2011. Gary says, "try to do what you are supposed to do, to its fullest extent." Gary is the current Assistant Superintendent of MCR Division 9 and is committed to advancing our hobby through education. Gary loves his family first; and then is committed to sharing his railroading knowledge.



Gary standing in front of his scratch built Burdette Creek Viaduct on the Grafton and Greenbrier Photo by Jerry Doyle

#### ATHEARN ANNOUNCES NEW GP-38-2 MODELS IN GENESIS SERIES

Horizon Hobbies has announced a new product in their Athearn Genesis series. These units will be even more detailed and road specific than what we are used to from Genesis products. The first model will be CN with the Canadian safety nose, road specific steps and other features. The second is MP representing an early model of GP38-2. The MP units will have the extra tool boxes MP specified and will have extra exhausts and spark arrestors provided to model the MP 4 stack modification which was

added to these units. Next we have SP units with the 88" short hood and the distinct SP light package. Lastly will be an SOU model with high short hood and the specially modified steps which were widened at the bottom to allow a crew member to ride during switching. All these models will be available equipped with DCC and sound or DC with available DCC connectors installed. Additional road names, again with road specific detailing, will be coming along in the future.

#### VALLEY FORGE, PA PROTOTYPE MODELER'S MEET

March 23 to 25 there will be a railroad prototype modelers meet. The location is the Desmond Great Valley Hotel at Malvern, PA. Registration fee is \$35.00. There will be prototype clinics, vendor's room, model display

room, Friday op sessions and Sunday layout tours. Contact Paul Backenstose at PRRpaul@aol.com or 610-269-2763; or visit www.phillynmra.org.

## MY WORD Dan Mulhearn, Editor

There are a couple of items to consider this month. First; I received my copy of **Amtrak by the Numbers** and was very impressed with the massive amount of data presented. The book thoroughly covers the history of Amtrak locomotives and cars up until this year. The original cars from day one are listed and there is a separate listing of the cars that were converted to head end power as the so called HERITAGE FLEET. This is a large and well researched coverage of the original AMTRAK fleet as well as the current roster.

Just the other day, with some difficulty, I downloaded the **RAILSIM2012** operations simulator. The graphics on this program are astounding. If you are familiar with the route being presented; you will recognize that the program accurately presents these lines. In order to save space the control panel is a generic or European presentation of what we might see in the cab. The single level line leaves more room for the out the window view but I wonder if the train handling is not too simplified in comparison to the real thing. It just seemed to me that the reaction of a heavy freight train to the brake inputs is quicker that what you would experience in the real world. The rail lines presented are cer-tainly realistic. I found myself noticing spots where I had taken pictures back in the day.

The upper shot to the right is of one of my ATLAS GP38 units on Jerry Orzechowski's **Lehigh and Susquehanna** back in Cherry Hill NJ in 1983, The L&S was a freelanced line representing the area covered by the LV, CNJ, EL in eastern Pennsylvania in the Allentown area D J Mulhearn photo

Below that is a shot of the coal unloader at the port scene on the Severna Park Model Railroad Club's **Chesapeake and Allegheny** model layout in the former interurban depot in Severna Park, MD. Live coal loads were loaded at the originating mine and transported to the port where they were unloaded into the waiting ship. The loads dumped into the ship dropped into a waiting bin and were then transported in large soft drink bottles back to the mine load out to start the process all ever. A very impressive model railroad. D J Mulhearn photo





#### WEBMASTER REPORT Bob Weinheimer MMR

It has been a while since my last report, newsletter space constraints have been largely to blame. This time there was a glaring white space here so I thought I owed you an update. Unfortunately, the web site provider keeps changing the way into the web site traffic data and now I can't even find anything. I hope to hear from them on fixing that issue.

In the meantime, I have set up a page on the site for Lin Young. If you have any printable stories and photos, send them to me to put on that page. Also, keep in mind that the Achievement Program allows up to half the credit for Author to be earned by material on web sites. As a practical matter that means 32 photos gets you that amount of credit. Take lots of interesting pictures of your layout or modeling efforts, write some captions, and send them to me. That portion of the web site sees the most visitors so you can be sure that people will see the fruits of your labors.

Gary Burdette has been working hard on developing content for an education section of the web site, I hope to bring some of that to you shortly.

#### ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

Achievement Program activity in the Division is picking up again. At the January meeting I was privileged to present John Harris with his Association Volunteer certificate. We also have the news, but not the certificates yet, that Dennis McGeeney has earned the Scenery certificate and that Mark Maynard has earned the Electrical Engineer certificate. Gary Burdette and Jerry Doyle recently judged Clint Foster's scenery and found it to be at a merit level. The paperwork is on its way for further review. Gary Burdette and I recently visited David and Nathan Robinette and judged several of David's structures. David has done enough merit level structure building to have, in our opinion, met the requirements for Master Builder Structures. All he has to do is complete some of that dreaded paperwork then get it on its way up the ladder for higher level review. David also appears to have met the requirements for the Electrical Engineer certificate. Again, the paperwork has to be prepared but the work is done. David and Nathan have both built scenes that do a nice job of replicating prototype scenes. We are encouraging them to research then build the appropriate motive power and cars to qualify for the Prototype Model certifi-

What have you been doing lately? As you can see, the work done by Clint and David was already done, all that was need was to have it judged and reviewed. Do you have any of that low hanging fruit that is ready for picking?



Bob Weinheimer (left) presents John Harris with his Association Volunteer certificate Photo by Jerry Doyle, touch up by Andy Cummings

## THREE DIMENSONAL CLOUDS Tony Puccini

To mask a large window in my train room, I covered it with a piece of thick poster board held in place with white duct tape. I wallpapered the poster board and painted blue skies and white clouds. However the straight lines from the duct tape were very visible through the paint. I thought that three dimensional clouds would be a great idea for this section of the *Three Arrows Railroad*. I looked through my file of modeling tips which I have been keeping for years but found no usable information. I remembered seeing three dimensional clouds on a layout visited years ago and set out to emulate that effect. Cotton was too artificial looking. The Fairfield Processing

Corp. makes a product called Polyester Fiberfill which is available at any craft store. This product looks quite convincing. Two inch sub terrain foam nails from Woodland Scenics were used to anchor the clouds to the wall. You can also use a 16 gauge 1 1/2 inch wire nail. To make the cloud take a piece of the material and run a nail through it. Next, gently tap the nail into the wall leaving the nail head out an inch or so. Fluff up the cloud to hide the nail and shape it as you desire.

The left photo shows the material and a foam nail, the next two are the clouds installed in place. (my photos)









# Take the HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh for the 2012 Mid-Central Region Convention!

April 26-29, 2012

#### EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A GREAT CONVENTION AND MORE!

Clinics - Tours - Contests - Non-Rail Activities - Layout Tours Banquet - Raffie Door Prizes Galore - Railfanning - Great Location

Our convention hotel, the Pittsburgh Radisson, is just minutes from downtown Pittsburgh, so you'll have the opportunity to see the city, visit Station Square Shops, ride our two historic inclines, railfan and enjoy the sights. Not only that, but right across the road from the hotel is Rook Yard, the former home of the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railroad, now a part of the W&LE Railroad. You can practically railfan from your hotel room!

#### Just some of the potential activities you'll find at the HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh Convention!

A Variety of Rail Tours
Steel Industry History
Hussey Copper
The Bridges of Pittsburgh
PortAuthority Light Rail Shops and Ride

Great Clinics
Hande-on clinics
Western Pennsylvania Railroads
Steel and Other Prototype Industries
Operations: Real and Simulated
Modern Railroad Equipment and Practices
Narrow Gauga Railroads, Model and Prototype
Modeling Structures, Rolling Stock & Scenery

Non-Rail Tours
Pitisburgh Glass Factory Make & Take
Just Ducky Tour of Pitisburgh
In-House Clinics for Non-Rails.

Local Attractions Carnegle Science Center Station Square Shope

Railfanning
NS & CSX Mainline Action
W&LE Across From the Hotel
Variety of Local Shortlines

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For more information as it becomes available, see our convention home page: www.highlinetopiteburgh.org



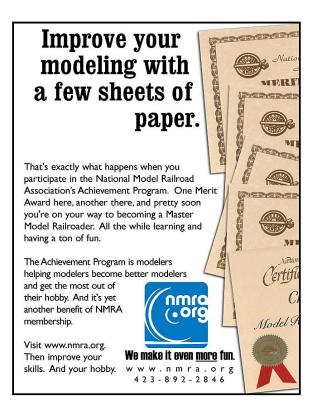
#### MCR CONVENTION

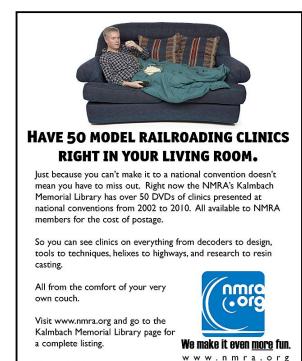
Above see the ad for the upcoming MCR convention. This promises to be a great one, to start with the hotel is across the street from an active rail yard, how long has it been since that has happened?

Pittsburgh is a city with a wonderful steel industry and railroad heritage. The Pittsburgh area also has one of the largest concentrations of highway and railroad bridges you will find, check them out at <u>pghbridges.com</u>.

Pittsburgh is home to more than its share of outstanding museums featuring everything from submarines to dinosaurs. You will also find a wide variety of restaurants featuring cuisines from all over the world. Bring the family, there will be lots of activities for those who are less interested in trains than us.

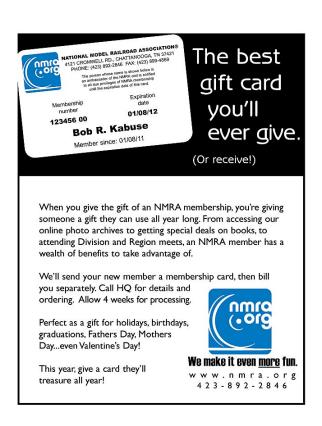
Mark your calendar for April 26 through 29. You can get registration forms on line or in the soon to arrive *King-pin*. Fill them out, send them in, and have a good time in a fun city.

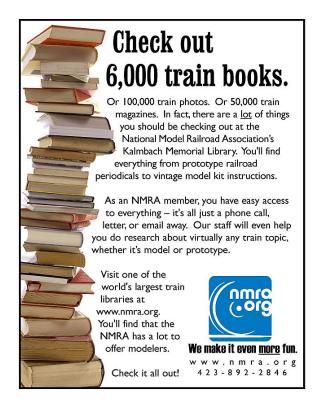




423-892-2846

Then, get that popcorn ready.





#### PIKE AD RENEWAL TIME

Do you see those pike ads in this issue? Yes, it's the time of year again for pike ad renewal. If you want to keep your ad, and haven't done so already, please submit \$10 to Clerk Jerry Doyle. If your ad needs any changes such as email or telephone number, let Jerry know and

he'll get the right person to make the change. I feel sure we can forget to bill the Grafton and Greenbrier and let Lin's railroad stay on the ad page as a reminder of all he did for the Coal Division.





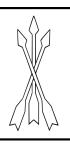
Mark Maynard, President Portsmouth, OH





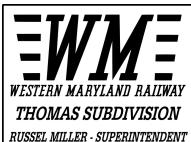


Jerry Doyle, President Barboursville, WV

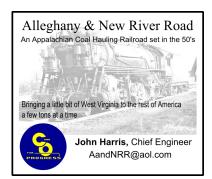


## Three Arrows Railroad

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

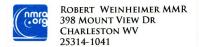


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If you received this newsletter via the US Postal Service and have an email address, please let us know so we can save printing and postage costs. Send a note to editor@coaldivision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

#### **Upcoming Coal Division Meetings**

February 11 West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts Teays Valley, WV

March 10 Location to be Determined

April 14 West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts Teays Valley, WV

> May 12 Parkersburg, WV