



# UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9  
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

September 2012



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## HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Last month I discussed the idea of attending NMRA national conventions. I mentioned that I hoped to be able to attend the next two, 2013 in Atlanta and 2014 in Cleveland. Well, after getting back from the National Train Show in Grand Rapids, I made the decision to go for it. I registered for the Atlanta convention on the NMRA web site then went in search of a hotel. The convention hotel was just over \$200 per night even with the AAA rate. The Embassy Suites across the street from the convention center was about \$140 with the AAA rate. Note that we paid about that price for our convention, this was not a convention rate. Split with a buddy and the price is half of that, pretty reasonable. Yes, I booked a room for the duration of the convention. I have offered to give a couple of clinics but it is too soon to know if they will be accepted.

Some of the activities I hope to participate in are the LDSIG (Layout Design Special Interest Group) and OPSIG (Operations SIG). Both have significant programs with layout tours and operating sessions separate from the rest of the convention. The best part is that convention registration includes the clinics and convention center activities, I would expect to have to pay for the other activities. As operating my layout is one of my key interests in model railroading, and since layout design goes hand in hand with operations, this looks like a great opportunity to interact with others with the same interests.

What are these SIGs? They are organizations that are loosely affiliated with the NMRA, NMRA membership is not required in order to join. There are about 25 SIGs, some focus on specific railroads and their history while others, like the LDSIG and OPSIG, go in other directions. Does it cost to join them? Yes but both LDSIG and OPSIG offer nice magazines. OPSIG is \$20 per year while LDSIG is \$25 per four issue cycle, this is about a year long now that its publication is on a regular schedule. Check out other SIGs that might be of interest to you at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).

The Mid Central Region Board of Directors will be meeting at noon Sunday September 23 at Schmidt's Sausage Haus und Restaurant in Columbus. All members are welcome to attend to see what goes on behind the scenes. Since BOD members will be coming from as far away as Pittsburgh and Louisville, the meeting starts with a wonderful buffet of German food. If you want to attend, please let me know by September 15 and bring along \$20 or so, I don't know the exact price yet but that should cover it.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Gary J. Burdette MMR

A few months ago, I wrote about several modelers who built their model railroads based upon something that had interested them, such as operations (coal haulers), locale (mountain railroads), and other attractive features of one or more lines. One gentleman, with whom I operated this past weekend, invited us to come to Texas, as an “experienced crew,” to run stock extras since it was time to ship the longhorns to market. He actually lives over near the West Virginia/Virginia border. His mind is in cattle country, on occasion, and that allows his imagination to build what it wishes. This is a good thing.

Another approach to modeling may involve something more personal like something from our past. Modeling a certain railroad at a specific time and place may keep the past alive. We may decide to build something that currently exists which has special meaning for us. Once again, this is a good thing.

With our yearly visit to Portsmouth coming up, it is appropriate to discuss railroads which have been built on that personal note. Though it is named “Crusty Mountain and Wiloby Springs Railroad,” Mark Maynard’s pike is not a little narrow gauge line clinging to a cliff, as the name might suggest, it represents the big-time N&W Railroad which was his employer for many years. Living in N&W country and working for the company set the theme for the model and his sense of humor dictated the fun he had giving his layout a name. It has the look and feel of the area, and is a real sight to behold. I encourage everyone to head west to enjoy a fine picnic, socialization, meeting, and op session.

For those who have attended our May get-together in Parkersburg, you have already noted that Dave Stout has captured the look and feel of that town and surrounding area on his modern-day Mid-Ohio Valley Railroad. For those who have not seen it, check out the line on our website. Dave once modeled B&O steam with less than satisfactory results from the early poor running locos. As he became interested in steel mills and modern operations,

the scenes and rail line developed. His city features around four square blocks with stores, cars, parking meters, man-hole covers, pole lines, street lights, four lane highway, and everything else possible for an down town area, except trains. They are on the outskirts of town (“the other side of the tracks”), just like real life. The rural area has a few structures here-and-there. The railroad looks just like the real landscape you just traversed to get to Dave’s home.

Nathan and David Robinette’s modeling goes back to their roots in Richland’s, Virginia. The N&W went right through town (and right by David’s house during his childhood). Their pike represents this part of the country and sports steam and diesel locomotives which actually ran there. A few years ago, David’s article on unloading automobile box cars, in the N&W newsletter, really told a story of historic interest. His recollections of the past and looking at the aerial photo of the town while viewing their model really does place you there to see a little of what they have lived.

Having visited my aunt and uncle in Pennsylvania, from my earliest memories, I am particularly fond of Dennis McGeeney’s Shamokin Division of the Reading Railroad. Dennis, a former Reading locomotive engineer and Pennsylvania native, has reproduced the line upon which he ran. There is a small industrial area, the breaker (That’s pronounced tippie where I come from!) at which Dennis used to shift cars, a mountainous area made from real sandstone rocks showing their way up through the earth with great geologic upheaval, and the quaint village of Schuylkill Haven. All are correct features of the area. Looking at photos of the area and listening to Dennis tell about his experiences brings his line to life.

The moral of the story: build what you like, and enjoy your hobby as it best reflects your interests, feelings, or history. And, come to Portsmouth to visit one of these railroads, because, this is a good thing.

## 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 this to happen reliably, we need all 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. Here are the deadlines for the next few issues.

October	October 1
November	October 29
December	November 26
January	December 31

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our September meeting is once again a joint meeting with Division 6. As he has for the past several Septembers, Mark Maynard has graciously agreed to host us and to provide lunch and beverages.

Mark's layout will be on display, he tells us that he and his crew have been installing lots of drywall as a prelude to big scenery improvements for next year. There are also a few new switches and structures in the works so be prepared to see improvements over last year.

A big part of the day is the flea market sale. Bring any of those things you thought you couldn't live without but now realize you don't need. Make sure your name is on it or the packaging, set a price, perhaps do some haggling, and be rid of it. We hope to have somebody to handle the money and bookkeeping but if you make a sale privately, please don't forget to pay the 10% fee due from the seller.

Since the meeting is a joint meeting, the business of both divisions will be discussed. The plan is to go through our typical agenda alternating between divisions; that seemed to work well last year. This should give Coal Division members an idea of how Division 6 does things

and it might even give us some ideas that we may wish to consider implementing. As this is a joint meeting, there will actually be two contests. Our normal photo contest (prototype or model) will be held while Division 6's normal contest will also be held. As I have entered models in the contests of other divisions, I can't imagine any Coal Division member bringing a stock car would be turned away.

The fun all starts around 11am, lunch will be available around noon or shortly thereafter. The business meeting will start at 2. While Portsmouth is a long distance for most of us to travel, car pooling can reduce costs and provide lots of good discussions en route. Now, all we need is a nice day.

Now, for some directions: If you are coming from anywhere but the west, find your way to Portsmouth, OH and leave town headed west on US 52. Look for Brouses Run Road about one half mile after the road narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Turn right onto Brouses Run Road, pass the first house on the right (Mark's) then turn right into the barn lot in about another 150 feet. The model railroad in upstairs in the barn, the meeting will be out behind the barn under the canopies.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

The October meeting will be on the 13th back at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. We're trying to talk Gary Burdette into giving the clinic on passenger cars he recently gave at the C&O Historical Society convention. November 10 we will be in Bluefield, WV at the NRHS Pocahontas Chapter train show. Since there will be so much to see, there is no point in a clinic. December 8 we will be back at the hobby shop.

Starting in 2013 we will most likely be moving our home base to the C&O Depot in St. Albans, WV. The group that oversees the Depot, the St. Albans Chesapeake and Ohio Modelers and Museum, Inc. has invited us to do so with the idea that we might provide some labor to help maintain the structure. We need to work out a couple of

details but this looks like a very positive move for the Coal Division as we have outgrown the back room at the hobby shop. The Depot will offer much more table space for contests and raffles as well as a more spacious seating arrangement. Of course, there is the likely meeting interruption of passing trains. We still intend to visit Parkersburg, Portsmouth, and Bluefield as we have done in recent years. If you are coming from some distance to attend these meetings, please don't forget to come a little early so you can do your hobby shopping. SACOMM and brand new Coal Division member Matt Crouch should be available to answer questions about this move at our September meeting. Thanks to Matt and SACOMM for extending this opportunity to the Coal Division.

## 2013 MID CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

The 2013 Mid Central Region convention will be in Dayton, hosted by Division 3, May 15 to 18. This convention starts Wednesday instead of the usual Thursday and will have an emphasis on operations but not at the expense of other interests. Tony Koester will be leading an operations boot camp and will be the banquet speaker.

There is quite a list of places to visit in the Dayton area including the Museum of the United States Air Force. It's still a bit early to have all tour information available, look for that in the MCR Kingpin which should be out in January. In the meantime, advance registration is available, see the details at [www.mcr2013convention.com](http://www.mcr2013convention.com).

## NMRA InfoNet News

### Gerry Leone MMR

Welcome to the Post-Convention edition of the NMRA InfoNet News!

As I've done in the past, I'm going to split the convention and Board meeting news between this edition and next month's, so that important information doesn't get buried.

Charlie Getz became the new NMRA President as Mike Brestel passed the reins to him at the Annual business meeting in Grand Rapids. Charlie has stated that his first order of business is to simplify the organizational structure of the NMRA.

Pacific Director Michael Bartlett (Australia) and Canada Director Fred Headon became members of the Board in Grand Rapids. Michael replaces Peter Jensen; Fred replaces Clark Kooning, who took over for Don Hillman after he retired for health reasons.

Charlie appointed Western Director Jack Hamilton to head up the new Strategic Planning Committee, which will prepare a plan to help guide the NMRA into the future. He'll be making a preliminary report at the winter Board meeting.

The Sacramento 21st Century Limited National Convention host group presented the Board of Directors with a check for \$7,500, to be donated to the Diamond Club. The Diamond Club funds are being used for the scanning and posting of archival photographs and artwork currently housed in the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library.

Charlie Getz updated the Board on the state of the "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit, to be housed at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). An anonymous donor has pledged \$250,000 in matching funds, and as of late July donations of at least \$160,000 were still needed to achieve the match. The funds must be received by the end of this year. Development of the exhibit is estimated to cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000. The "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit will be seen by approximately 600,000 visitors to CSRM annually.

The Marketing Department team of Page Martin, Garrett Ewald, and Barrett Johnson were named at the convention. Each of these individuals has professional marketing experience, and is tasked with developing advertising and promotions aimed at retaining existing members, re-enlisting lapsed members, and attracting new ones.

Ben Sevier of the Pacific Southwest Region has accepted the position of Information Technology Director for the NMRA.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in NMRA Magazine.

Gerry Leone, MMR  
NMRA Communications Director

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

It was a pleasure to present Dan Kennedy with his first Achievement Program certificate for Scenery at the August meeting. Unfortunately, the photo was not quite good enough to publish here. Dan gave me the paperwork for his Structures certificate so we should have another chance for a photo soon.

Tony Puccini has given me his paperwork for Chief Dispatcher. It, too, will soon be headed off for approval at the regional and national levels. Tony tells me he learned quite a bit about his railroad by developing the operating system as required for this certificate. I guess that's why the Achievement Program is part of the NMRA's Education Department. Keep this in mind as you approach a subject that is new to you.

Keep up the good work. While you are at it, please consider preparing a clinic as a way of sharing your modeling experience with the membership. You might just inspire somebody else to leave their comfort zone and try something new. If you think to, try taking photos as you go along while building a model. That will make a clinic and a newsletter article much easier to write and to comprehend. I know I'm bad about doing that so do as I say, not as I do!

Just as this issue of Up The Holler was about to go to press I stumbled across a very interesting web site where Kelly Lloyd, MMR 482, describes his path to Master Model Railroader. It's quite humorous, give it a look <http://www.kansascitysub.info/achieve.php>

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9  
The Coal Division  
Teays Valley, West Virginia  
July 14, 2012**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Clinic:** Paul Lapointe

**Division Clerk Report**

Minutes from May meeting approved as printed in the newsletter.  
Treasurer balance is currently \$8,717.

**Superintendent Report**

Bob mentioned the recent outings to Marion, Ohio and Romney, WV.

There is a call for clinics for the 2013 MCR convention in Dayton.

**Assistant Superintendent Report**

Gary was in Michigan but Bob mentioned Gary's efforts to invigorate the AP program.

**Achievement Program**

Clint Foster was presented with his certificate for Master Builder Scenery.

**Newsletter**

No report

**Clinic Chair**

Bob will be presenting his clinic on documenting your collection unless other clinicians volunteer.

**Membership Chair**

No Report

**Travels with Dennis**

Dennis wasn't present but Bob mentioned the great trip to Romney.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Announcements**

Bob mentioned the high degree of attendance at Marion.

**Next Meetings**

August 11 WV Hobbies & Crafts  
September 8 Mark Maynard's

October 13 WV Hobbies & Crafts

November 10 Bluefield Show

December 8 WV Hobbies & Crafts

**Contest – Offline Structures**

Adjourned 2:28

Respectfully Submitted

Jerry Doyle, MCR Division 9 Clerk



Two more pictures from the NS 30th anniversary celebration. NKP 765 on Horseshoe curve and WAB unit from the OCS. Both photos courtesy of Norfolk Southern

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
**The Coal Division**  
**Teays Valley, West Virginia**  
**August 11, 2012**

**Introduction:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00PM and members and one guest introduced themselves.

**Superintendent's Report;** Bob spoke about the National Train Show, attendance at NMRA events in general and upcoming events in National NMRA governance.

**Asst. Superintendent's Report;** None submitted as Gary was at the C&O HS Convention in the DC area.

**Chief Clerk/Treasurer;** no report, Jerry also, is at the C&O HS convention. July meeting minutes not yet available; to be published in the September *Up The Holler*.

**Achievement Program;** Dan Kennedy received his first certificate and Tony Puccini submitted his paperwork for his Chief Dispatcher certificate.

**Newsletter:** Input is always welcome, we are hoping to make our division newsletter one of the best.

**Clinic Chair;** Members need to step up and offer to do clinics at Division meetings and beyond.

**Travels with Dennis:** Dennis is working on a trip to the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway.

**Old Business;** none

**New Business;** none

**Next Meeting;** Mark Maynard's home at Portsmouth, OH

**Contest;** Larry Richards took top prize for his 1936 Ford school bus as well as second and third place for his beautifully crafted model vehicles.

**Clinic:** Bob Weinheimer presented a clinic on the recent National Train Show in Grand Rapids, MI

Respectfully submitted; Dan Mulhearn  
 Acting Clerk

**MY WORD**  
**Dan Mulhearn, Editor**

Man, am I stoked. Bob Weinheimer's column on attending National NMRA Conventions rang the bell. I have attended the 2005 and 2011 Nationals and can highly recommend you get to one if at all possible. The thing that really got my juices flowing this month is Gary's column on modeling based on your own experiences. I am that little boy that was on the west end of the platform at Valley Stream, NY after school just about every day. I remember lying in bed at night in our vacation cabin along the upper Delaware River and hearing the sound of Erie-Lackawanna F units echoing through the valley as NY 100 or some other hot freight accelerated out of Lordville Curve. I can still see in my mind the New York Central afternoon streamliner fleet rolling up the Hudson as seen from the top of Bear Mountain. There are so many personal memories of railroading which are so personal to me. I am sure the same applies to you in so many memories. Our modeling gives us an opportunity to recreate these memories or go off in entirely new directions. We can create whole new railroads of our own imagining, such as the Pennsylvania Southern, the Grafton and Greenbrier, or the Midland Atlantic. Then again we can recreate the prototype, or our own image of the prototype as we see fit. In all cases it our hobby and it is a wonderful hobby. Gary mentions being invited by a gentleman to come to Texas for the cattle rush. That gentleman is

Gene Browning of Natural Bridge, VA, a retired N&W employee. Gene has a love for West Virginia coal railroading and the scenery of the southwest. So, his Pecos and Brazos Valley combines coal railroading with the scenery of Texas and New Mexico. A bonus to all that coal traffic is the annual stock car rush. On October 5th I will be operating on Bob Burke's Sandy Creek and Southern and the following day on Gene's layout. What a great hobby!

Those of us old enough to remember railway post office cars and baggage cars full of bulk mail will be amused to hear that the US Postal Service has noticed the advantages of using rail for forwarding the mail. The Inspector General of the postal service noticed that UPS is the largest user of rail intermodal service. Not only that but one of the largest contractors used by the post office, J B Hunt, uses intermodal to a very large degree. A report in the *Tarheel Telegrapher* of the North Carolina Railway Museum states that the U S Postal Service spent more than 3.3 billion dollars on highway based contracts; but less than 40 million on rail based alternatives in 2011. The reports notes Amtrak's moribund effort, abandoned in 2004, to enhance rail transport of mail. So, in this twenty six page report the USPS seems to be ready to reinvent the wheel.

Now that Up The Holler is a monthly publication, your Pike Ad support is much more important. If you don't already have an ad, please consider buying one. We can help with the art work if necessary.



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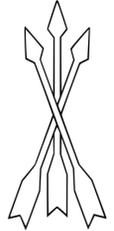
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**THREE ARROWS RAILROAD**

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Allegheny & New River Road  
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to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up The  
Holler.

## Upcoming Coal Division Events

**September 8**

**Mark Maynard's Home  
Portsmouth, OH**

**October 13**

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV**

**November 10**

**NRHS Pocahontas Chapter Train Show  
Bluefield, WV**

**December 8**

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV**