



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

November 2013



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Well, it's that time of year for me to note that several members can make it to St. Albans from the southernmost points of West Virginia nearly every month for Coal Division meetings. It only seems obvious that the rest of us can make it to Bluefield each November for our monthly meeting. Of course, there is a pretty good train show to keep us busy. We are looking for a few souls to help us staff the Division's booth at the show so consider coming on down early in the day. Directions are elsewhere in this issue.

We had a great clinic at the October meeting, Bob Osburn told us quite a bit about animation with servos. He passed around a number of displays including an N Scale dump truck that had a bed that went up and down. It turns out that many of these servos can be interfaced with DCC systems. I need to note that the one interface that he passed around appears to work only with Digitrax, it turns out that there are other servo drivers available that work with NCE, Lenz, and Digitrax.

How many of us dream of seeing photos of our layouts in the hobby press? I had a couple in the *LDSIG Journal* a few years back. Mark Maynard has had a couple in *Railroad Model Craftsman*. There may be others I have overlooked but now there is a new one: Paul Lapointe has two photos he took of his layout in the 2014 Walthers catalog. Look for them on pages 614 and 635. Congratulations to Paul.

We were all pleasantly surprised at our October meeting to receive a wonderful wood carving with the Division's name. This wonderful work of art was created by Donna McGeeney, Dennis's wife. We didn't have a good camera that would have done it justice but certainly hope to get a picture in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. We expect that it will find a spot on the wall in the waiting room at the Depot. Thanks to Donna!

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

Well, a lot has been going on in Division 9, the Coal Division, the last few months. Much of the flurry of activity has centered on our meetings at the old C&O St. Albans Depot.

As we have been settling into our “new digs,” we continue to evolve into the “tenants” we want to be. While a guest, so to speak, of the St. Albans C&O Modelers and Museum, we are a bona-fide and welcome occupant of the station as provided by the terms of the lease. The overall goal being that the structure is used by historic, railroad affiliated groups (and others, as the occasion dictates). That is us, and we settle into this venue as the “Official Club House of Division 9.”

When this opportunity was first discussed, it was noted we could meet, have open houses with clinics, presentations, model shows, and such. Cook outs, flea markets and mini-conventions were mentioned as possibilities. As far as our responsibilities for the upkeep of depot; use the place and work on it “as we can.”

Now, we have done this “in Spades!” As we first began to meet, the education committee looked at preparing a cleaning schedule so we could show our appreciation immediately. Tony Puccini purchased some water for the refrigerator and Dennis McGeeney supplied a bulletin board so we could keep information posted (he has donated some soda pop and the beautiful sign previously noted, as well). We looked at donating money to help restore a couple of windows and/or taking on some smaller projects under the “as we can” category.

Looking around, we saw some projects we could undertake, especially after the automobile struck the east end and knocked the “old girl” off her feet. Clean-up and organization became the watchword. A couple of Saturday and several Thursday work sessions resulted in many things getting done. First and foremost was cleaning the office and meeting room. The furnace room was organized so the paint and other supplies were properly stored and extra room was made to store books and photographs displaced due to the accident.

This organization process evolved into re-organizing and preparing displays. The display cases were spruced up and various items were returned to the wall for public viewing. While we are planning to

build shelving for a library, a small study area has been established in the office, with existing equipment, to house books, photos, and documents.

A couple of larger projects are under way or have been completed. The fence is undergoing a painting and restoration. Matt Crouch, Bill Bartley, Bob Weinheimer, Scott Cyrus, Bob Osburn, and Gary Burdette worked on it and some organization projects in August. Bob O. and Bill replaced the broken fence post and worked on the threshold on the double doors. Bob installed it couple of weeks back (Bob donated the nice magazine rack from which NRT passengers grabbed up Amtrak and Hocking Valley flyers).

The results of this initial effort helped get the station ready, and looking her best, for the “Whistles by the Depot” slide show presentation and “The New River Train” that operated these last two weekends. Others who, also, helped in organizing and/or manning the depot during these two events include Jerry Doyle, Nick Marakovits, Bob Mershimer, Chase Gunnoe, and Mike Mullins (for “Whistles,” Scott brought by several photos and O-gauge locomotives to display). I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone. It has been a real team effort.

(As an aside, I had my picture taken with several of the passengers on the NRT due to my costume of Train Master’s hat and vest. We were visited by a Boy Scout troop, during the first Saturday, who were treated to an impromptu tour. A seasoned railroad veteran told some railroad stories. History just oozed from that old station during these activities.)

More than that, this endeavor has been an example of “Partners in Education” between SACOMM, the C&O Historical Society, Collis P. Huntington Historical Society, and the Coal Division as all were represented. Each of these organizations (including the Women’s Club who originally saved the station) share the same mission: to preserve and disseminate the history of railroading to the public, often through artifacts, information, and models. (See “Welcome” in the October *C&O NL* at coh.org)

Hopefully, the Coal Division will continue to grow, develop more ideas on how to provide outreach to the public, and help keep the St. Albans Depot a source of pride as a museum and “Official Clubhouse of Division 9.”

MEETING NOTICE

The November meeting of MCR Division Nine will be held at the Bluefield Youth Center on Stadium Drive in Bluefield on November 9th at 2:00PM. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the NRHS Pocahontas Chapter annual train show. The contest for November will be vehicles built for use on a model railroad. Also please consider bringing any unwanted or orphan items you have for donation to the raffle. The clinic for November will be enjoying the train show and getting in your Christmas shopping. Please try and make the meeting; it is a long trip for many but well worth your time. Chuck will be among the many dealers at the show and his prices are often very generous. Hope to see you there!

Probably the easiest access for most would be the WV Turnpike and I-77 to exit 1 just before the tunnel at Bluefield WV. Then follow John Nash Blvd to US 460 West. Take 460 west until you hit the WV/VA State line. At the first traffic signal after you enter the State of Virginia; make a right turn onto Leatherwood Lane. You will then come to another traffic signal at a "tee" intersection with College Ave. Make a left turn onto College Ave then immediately prepare to make a right turn onto Stadium Drive. You will see a used car dealership to your right and Bluefield (VA Baptist) College in front of you as you are turning onto Stadium Dr. Follow Stadium Drive to the show.

RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

The October raffle at the St. Albans Depot took in \$36. Thanks go Bob Weinheimer for taking over the duties while I was off on the West Coast.

With the November meeting at the Bluefield Train Show, there will be no raffle. It will resume in December

when we're back at the Depot.

Don't forget, even at meetings where there is no raffle, the officers will still accept contributions of items for the next time.

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.

December	December 2
January	December 30
February	January 27
March	February 24
April	March 31
May	April 28
June	June 2
July	June 30
August	July 28

Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

The Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club would like to invite you to our 18th Annual Train Show and Sale. It will be on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10AM-3PM at WV University-Parkersburg at Parkersburg, WV. WVU-P is 1 mile east of I-77 exit#174 on Rt 47. There will be vendors

selling model railroad items, operating layouts, a bucket drawing and refreshments available. Admission is \$4. Under 12-Free. Vendor tables are \$12. For information call: 304 588-5417 or e-mail: railsign@suddenlink.net.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
October 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes
St. Albans Depot, St. Albans, WV

Welcome- 18 members

Clerk's Report – Absent – Moved and seconded (John Harris, Bill Wadsworth) to approve Sept. minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion passes by members present.

Treasurer's Report – No bills past month

Super's Report – Bob, Jerry, and Gary attended MCR BOD meeting in Oct. – Each division reported, schedule of events given out. Bob is new *King Pin* editor. It will be on-line, unless requested as hard copy. Thanks to Dennis and Donna McGeeny for beautiful Division 9 sign.

Asst. Super's Report – Mentioned that the MCR schedule was posted on bulletin board, continued discussion by MCR on education, and our role at the depot was to use it as the “Official Club House of Division 9!”

Achievement-Quiet– One member ready for structures, but must write paperwork, one outstanding certificate to present, have a list of where several members stand and will encourage to proceed with projects.

Newsletter – Ed. Absent – send articles.

Clinics- Jan. clinic will be on the “Status of the Depot,” think about presenting at the National NMRA Convention next July, and Jim Rollwage may present on railroads serving the Panama Canal rebuild at an upcoming meeting.

Membership Chair Report- John Harris has obtained some new handouts for the Division 9 booth at the Bluefield Train Show the weekend of Nov. 11, 12, and 13. Will need a volunteer to help man the booth Sunday from the opening at noon until 2:00.

Raffle-Paul absent but had stuff for Bob who substituted. \$36.00 raised.

Old Business- None

New Business- Dennis has some pictures from Pa. which may be used in the newsletter. Dave Stout asked if we could move our May meeting in Parkersburg, “Steel is King,” to the first Saturday of the month to accommodate members from our sister division in the Wheeling/ Pittsburgh area and the Mid-Ohio Valley RR Club making it easier for more of them to attend. A motion was made by Bill Wadsworth and seconded by Dennis McGeeny to make the change. The motion was passed.

Announcements- The MCR annual membership meeting is usually held during the spring convention. Due to the cancellation in 2014 because the “National” is being hosted by our region, this meeting will be held in Marion, Ohio on June 14, 2014 at the Division 6 monthly meeting. The back- up date is June 1. This may be a joint meeting with Division 9. Also, Jim Butler needs a web-master for the SACOMM site. Contact him or the Division 9 asst. super, if interested.

Next Meeting- Bluefield, Nov. 9, 2013.
St. Albans depot: Dec., Jan., Feb., March, April.

Contest—Open loads – Ed Keith, cut stone load, 1st. – Larry Richards, fire truck load 2nd.

Clinic- Bob Osburn, “Using Servos to Make Animations.”

Respectfully submitted by,
Gary J. Burdette, MMR – Asst. Super

NMRA INFONET Tom Draper

Message from Kathy Millatt NMRA Atlantic District Director:

How to sell the NMRA?

As a new Director, I attended the Train Show in Atlanta and was really impressed with the HQ team and their sales technique. As someone who has stood at NMRA stands at large events in the UK wondering what to say that will encourage people to join, it gave me some great ideas.

The team start by asking passers by "are you a model railroader?" Given that they are at a train show, the normal response is "yes". The team's next question is "are you a member of the NMRA?" If the answer is "no" then the team tell them about the rail pass and its benefits. The pass is for six months' NMRA membership and only costs \$9.95. The team have a pile of nickels lined up ready to give as change although potential members can also pay by card. At the Train Show, the team were also able to give out a few goodies such as pens, mugs, Convention bags and badges to encourage signing up.

The conversion rate from rail pass to full membership is 78%. This is a hugely successful route to new members having started people on a membership for six months.

Of course, having started a new member on a six month package, it may be worth recapping what we have to offer as it is easy to overlook the benefits that we do have. I personally have found the strongest benefit is the local Divisions. At our local UK show, I added a map of the UK showing where all the Divisions are based and it drew a lot of attention. Unfortunately, there were a few

comments of "no one in my area" but on the whole it shows just how many groups we do have actively modelling.

The National Convention is just one in a busy calendar of events. Divisions and regions run their own meets and conventions which also draw in the public and potential new members. Other benefits are the magazine, calendar, website and recorded clinics. On a more practical front, the NMRA runs Modelling with the Masters at conventions and meets. The Achievement Programme can add challenge and structure to a member's modelling. There are so many more that I haven't mentioned such as insurance, books, standards or library.

For those wondering, why bother with new members, my answer is simple. We are all getting older and I want to pass this amazing hobby down to new generations for them to enjoy as much as I have.

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 or in the NMRA Magazine.

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA
Director – Support Services

Editor's comment: Please note that the Atlantic District includes Europe, Africa, and all points on this side of the Atlantic Ocean south of the US border, a huge area. Also, Kathy refers to the UK. For those from Kentucky, that means United Kingdom, more commonly known to Americans as England, not the University of Kentucky.

Are you a Coal Division member who received this newsletter by email but did not receive the NMRA eBulletin October 23? If so that likely means the NMRA Headquarters has a different email from the one you supplied us for Up The Holler. The blurb below tells how to fix that, follow its instructions to up-date your email with the NMRA Headquarters.

Email address changes



Each time the eBulletin is mailed out, Page Martin, our Marketing Director, receives requests from dozens of members asking for an email address change. Page can't do much about that - that job is done by our fine staff at Headquarters. **If you have a change of email address, please visit**

<http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> and update your information. It will go straight to our HQ staff, who'll make sure it gets updated before the next **NMRA eBulletin** gets sent.

MY WORD Dan Mulhearn, Editor

Well, how about this month some pictures.



Off the internet; NS Pier 6 anniversary hopper, NKP 765 on the Wabash Cannonball trip, NS showing platform and the cars that were wrecked on the Durbin and Greenbrier tourist train by the log truck.

Buffalo Creek and Gauley Caboose Dennis McGeeny

Last winter I took these pictures of an old wooden caboose which once ran on the Buffalo Creek and Gauley Railroad. It was put on mobile home wheels and moved from Widen to Summersville, West Virginia by a local resident.

Widen was a large coal town with a big tippie, compa-

ny store, theatre, and dozens of houses. Today, there are only a few houses left.

The caboose is painted box car red (brown) and lettered with stencils. The herald, number (17) and Built date (BLT 6-1930) are shown in the photos.



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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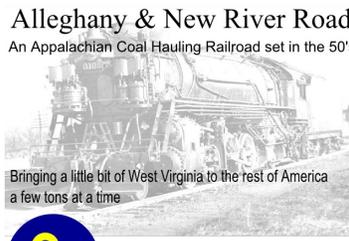
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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendent
Ronceverte WV



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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Upcoming Coal Division Events

November 9
Bluefield Youth Center
Stadium Drive
Bluefield, WV

December 14
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV

January 11
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV

February 8
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV