



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

June 2014



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Gary Burdette MMR

It has been a busy May.

Things began with a trip to Parkersburg, West Virginia for our annual “Steel is King” day, picnic, and monthly meeting. There was a good turnout, including representatives from Divisions 6 and 2. The food and get-together combined for a fun time. Thanks to Paul Lapointe and Dave and Rhonda Stout for all their hard work. Your efforts are much appreciated.

A few days later found Bob Weinheimer and me back at Parkersburg for a luncheon and on to Waverly to judge Paul’s scenery for AP credit. It is always a treat to see his details. A mirror inside the mine face fooled us into believing there is a string of lights along the shaft going into the hill. (Yes, I was fooled by the mirror by the coal loader, too, during my first visit. I did try to look into the next room!)

The Coal Division partnered with the St Albans C&O Modelers and Museum and members of the Collis P. Huntington Historical Society to put on National Train Day on the 10th of May. John Harris sat up our display booth, Jerry Doyle erected the Thomas layout, Dennis McGeeney gave his presentation of “The Locomotive Engineer,” Larry Richards had “Lanterns and locks,” I taught a drawing the whistle stop art class with related railroad art show, and we had models on display along with the artifacts at the depot. The Alban Players presented the plays “Chessie Finds a Home” and “John Henry-The Black Sampson,” by Thomas W. Dixon, Jr. Valerie Little from the Chamber-of-Commerce worked us into the Founder’s Day program by providing Hobos (complete with camp and stew) and pickers to play the old tunes at the “barn dance” tent. Shuttles carried folks around town. Bob Mersheimer helped out with Thomas and the small Lionel pike.

The next week Bob and I went to the mountains to judge wiring and such for Dan Mulhearn’s Electrical Engineer AP Certificate.

This past Saturday Matt Crouch and I set things up for a baby shower, as SACOM rented the depot and paid some bills. Believe it or not, that was fun, too.

June 14th will find us meeting with Division 6, at Marion, Ohio. The schedule of activities and map is included within the newsletter. The contest will be “modeler’s choice.” See you there!

MEETING NOTICE

The next membership meeting will be a joint meeting with Division 6 (The Buckeye Division) Saturday June 14 at the Marion Union Station in Marion, Ohio. This is an annual Buckeye Division event in which we have participated in the past. This year it will also include the Mid-Central Region’s BOD Meeting and Annual Meeting. A schedule of events is on page 6 and a map of Marion is on page 7. The joint membership meeting will start following the Annual Meeting. The contest will be Modeler’s Choice, both model and photograph. Note that contest entries close at 11am, get an early start if you plan to participate.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn

Well, here we go, my first column as your assistant superintendent. One thing I would like to make clear is that the word facilitator might be substituted for the word superintendent. I see my job as being a facilitator keeping the Division running on the current or even higher level. The most important thing is that each member gets to enjoy our hobby in his or her own way and the Division facilitates that enjoyment. There are so many different facets of the hobby. We have modelers in all gauges. We have people who's primary focus is operation; ranging from simple operations to full timetable and train order operation. We have people who model a particular prototype in a particular era very strictly; while others model a prototype with a whole lot of modeler's license. Some enjoy modeling multiple railroads and eras. Then there are those who model a prototype that exists only in our model world; such as Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern or Lin's G&G. I see it as my job to understand that everyone "does" the hobby in his own way and not to

discourage folks from enjoying their own perspective. At the same time I greatly enjoy sharing and teaching about prototype operations because that is my favorite part of the hobby. Please feel free to point that out to me if I seem to be forgetting this point. Model Railroading is (supposed to be) fun!

Now, I don my other hat as clinic chairman. Everyone has something they can share about our hobby and pass on to others. Please don't be shy, if you feel you have a clinic in you, which I suspect most of us do, let me know and we will schedule. The officers and others in the Division will be more than happy to help you in developing your clinic if you are a novice and feel you need it.

I am really looking forward to seeing everyone at Marion, OH on June 14th.

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.

July	June 30
August	July 28
September	September 1
October	September 29
November	October 29

NMRA CLEVELAND 2014

Mark July 13 –20 on your calendar, the NMRA National convention is as close as it has been to the Coal Division in almost 10 years.

What is a National convention? Think of it as a week long Regional convention with five to ten times as many attendees. There will be more clinics than you can count, many presented by nationally known modelers who are just as anxious to meet other modelers as those other modelers are to meet them. There are numerous layout tours, operating sessions, and tours to such places as the Age of Steam Roundhouse. Check the latest issue of NMRA Magazine or go to www.2014cleveland.org for full details.

As if that is not enough, at the end of the week your convention registration gets you into the National Train Show for no extra cost. Act soon to get your preferred tours and hotel arrangements.



CONTEST REPORT

Paul Lapointe

May's contest followed the "Steel is King" day theme with several entries of rolling stock found in and around steel mills. Bob Weinheimer entered two scrap gondolas, Dave Stout a P&LE scrap gon, Paul Lapointe a bottle car, and Bob DiBenedetto had three entries: two coil cars and a scrap gon. First place went to Paul's bottle car and second place went to Bob's scrap gone loaded with steel wheels.

Next Month:

June's meeting is in Marion at the train station. It's all day joint meeting with Division 6. We will go along with our host. They have a two-part contest:

Model is Modelers Choice.
Photograph is Modelers choice.

Their deadline for contest is 11:00 AM so get there early to put in your entry!



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

As Gary mentioned in his column, Achievement Program activity has picked up a notch.

Dan Mulhearn has done enough work on Walt Mycoff's layout to easily earn his Electrical Engineer Certificate.

As everyone who has attended our Steel is King meetings knows, Paul Lapointe's scenery is clearly outstanding. Gary Burdette, Dave Stout, and I visited Paul recently to judge the scenery and the score was a bit over 100, well more than needed to earn the Scenery certificate. I also expect that Paul will be earning his Association Volunteer certificate in a few short months.

Congratulations to Dan and Paul. As the ad to the right suggests, participation in the Achievement Program is a great learning experience. I can tell you that it pushed me beyond my comfort zone and got me to do some things I had not done before and I learned quite a bit. Give it a try!

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.



Visit www.nmra.org.
Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
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NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Charleston Amtrak Depot Charleston, WV

April 12, 2014

Corrected Minutes

Meeting Called to order at 2:00

meeting will be held a week early in deference for Mother's Day.

Superintendent Report

Bob mentioned alternate lodging for the Cleveland regional convention. The seat for Eastern District Director is open. A new region was approved for Europe. A temporary policy regarding clinics is being worked out. The Chattanooga headquarters was sold recently. Kansas City will be the site for the 2018 convention. An effort to develop a standard for Lego trains was terminated when it was determined that Lego already set most of the standards.

Raffle

Paul showed items for today's raffle.

Clinic Chair

Next month will be layouts. June will be clinics in Marion. August will be our cook out. September will be a cookout at Mark's. A clinic is needed for October.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$8,741.35
The proceeds from the raffle were \$50.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary mentioned the upcoming meetings in Marion, Ohio and Elkins, WV. Several members assisted in rescuing railroad documents from the CSX shops in Huntington. Gary presented the idea of the St Albans depot being proclaimed the official home of Division 9. We have been asked to participate in the St Albans Founder's Day on May 10.

Announcements

Dan mentioned the Streamliner program being held in Spencer, NC in May.
The Division 2 Jamboree will be held April 26 in Pittsburgh.

Membership Chair

John discussed the recent table at the Dunbar Show. Traffic was light but we did have a few people express an interest. He mentioned the relative benefits of manning a table versus the response.

Future Meetings

May 3 Parkersburg, WV
June 14 Joint with Division 6, Marion, OH
July 12 potentially in Elkins, WV
August 9 St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned 2:34

Achievement Program

Bob announced several members are making progress towards AP certificates.

Following the business meeting Jerry Doyle presented a clinic on various train stations and Paul Lapointe presented a clinic on the Salem, MA passenger depot

Newsletter Chair

Dan is always looking for input and suggestions. The newsletter will be coming out earlier since the May

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

With the division meeting on the road away from our home base, the raffle is in the middle of a mini-vacation. There was no raffle in May, June's meeting is in Marion with Division 6 so there won't be a raffle then either and July's meeting will likely be in Elkins.

Meanwhile, we're always ready to accept donations, so bring your stuff to any of the meetings no matter where they are!

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News For May, 2014

From John Stevens, NMRA Secretary

Results of the 2014 Election

Canadian Results:

200 ballots were returned
 Canadian District Director Fred Headon (194 votes)
 NMRA Canada President Clark Kooning (198 votes)
 NMRA Canada Vice President Steve McMullin (198 votes)

There were no write-in candidates. Some ballots did not include a vote for some candidates.

US Results:

1,193 ballots submitted
 1,192 ballots cast (one ballot was blank)
 Central District Director
 Peter Magoun (1,185 votes)
 Bob Beaty (1 vote)
 Bruce Brintnall (1 vote)
 John Burchnall (1 vote)
 Russell K. Ceasar)1 vote)
 Bob Fink (1 vote)
 Paul Mangan (1 vote)
 tan Whittingham (1 vote)

The results are not official until the BOD accepts the 2014 Election Results Report at the Annual BOD Meeting in Cleveland.

NMRA ECONOMICS – part 2 Frank Koch, NMRA CFO

First, I'd like to share a few words on the sale of the building and the subsequent use of the sale proceeds. In about 2001, the NMRA liquidated the investment assets that were underwriting the Life Fund and eliminated a much less attractive building mortgage. Ever since, the Life Fund has had an internal paper "lien" on the building of about \$600,000. When we sold the building, the first \$600,000 was used to satisfy the "lien" and the Life Fund is again wholly backed by cash investments rather than partially funded by bricks. No additional funds from the sale were added to the Life Fund.

Second, the BOD established a permanent designated fund with the balance of the proceeds (just shy of \$300,000) plus they added an additional \$200,000 of the operating surplus from the 2013 fiscal year – a year much better than expected. In their wisdom, they agreed that this fund cannot be used for current operations and that the principal can only be used for extraordinary one-time purposes and only after consideration and agreement of

the BOD. Simply think of this as the start of an endowment fund for the NMRA – the fund principal is designated for a specific type of use only. Now, let me continue the explanation of NMRA Economics in part 2.

Corporations (the NMRA is a legal corporation and not a club) often refer to their various individual financial elements as profit or cost centers or something similar. For convenience, the NMRA lumps similar parts of our "business" into four interdependent areas that share common attributes. Our four major cost centers are operations, magazine, non-dues programs, and the Howell Day Museum. Each cost center comprises several related activities. The approved NMRA budget (ex. Howell Day Museum) for 2014 is almost \$1.8M and contains a planned modest surplus as required by the Executive Handbook to cover unexpected expenses, shortfalls in income, or unique opportunities (all numbers are rounded and are thousands of dollars):

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>
Operations	\$757	\$773	(\$16)
Magazine	\$322	\$456	(\$134)
Non-Dues Programs	\$700	\$495	\$205
NMRA Total	\$1,779	\$1,724	\$55 surplus
Howell Day Museum	\$351	\$539	(\$188)

Operations (about 40% of income) are all the activities that provide direct member services, with primary funding from dues, investment income, and other member fees. Operations include the expenses for the small permanent headquarters staff and leased facility (lease, utilities, insurance), agreed direct expenses for the elected and appointed officers, travel and lodging for the two required BOD meetings, region rebates, and all the member service departments. The International regions have their own direct operational expenses which are managed and funded locally and they remit only the portion of their dues that goes to support the member services that are available to all our world-wide members. The Regulations limit our ability to increase dues for inflation as we can only raise dues to reflect actual changes in inflation after the fact, and can only raise dues to match the inflation change since the last dues increase...so we are always slightly behind reality.

Operations include dues as the primary source of income. The BOD winter meetings are held in locations that offer the best combination of lowest total airfare and inexpensive hotels – we go cheap. The summer BOD meeting is always combined with the convention for efficiency and minimum cost.

Continued on Page 7

**Division 6 MCR
Present the**



**Saturday
June 14, 2014
9am-Until**

Marion Station



All Day Train Fest

Schedule of Events:

All day: Train Watching

9:30am to 10:30am Clinic - Don Wilke "Making Award winning photos"

10:30am to 11:30am AP Model Judging

10:30am to 2:30pm Division 6 Contest - Popular Vote and judging, Swap meet

11:30am to 1:00pm Lunch on your own-many restaurants nearby or bring a cooler

1:00pm to 2:00pm Clinic - Frank Bongiovanni - New clinic - "The Toledo and Ohio Central/The New York Central in West Virginia "

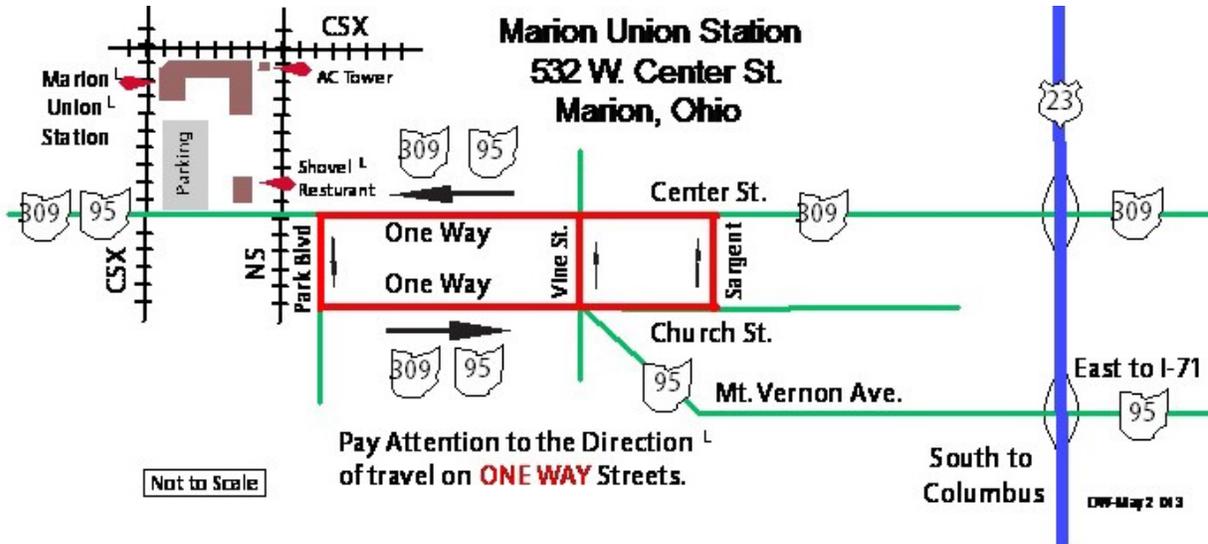
2:00pm to 3:00pm MCR BOD meeting

3:05pm MCR Membership Meeting - Expected to be very short

Cold Soda and Water available
Lunch is on you at near by Restaurants

**Map on
Next Page**

Sponsored by Division 6 MCR NMRA
And
The Marion Station Historical Society



The NMRA Magazine (about 20% of income) is the second major cost center and also operates at a modest deficit (about \$100K/year), by design, in order to keep subscription rates low for members. We periodically increase the subscription rates to recover the effects of inflation, but we do this after the fact so we are always behind the inflation effects. We cannot raise rates in anticipation of possible inflation; we can only react to cover increased costs. We tend to increase subscription rates at the same time as dues increases.

There are two sources of magazine income – subscriptions and paid advertising. We are fortunate that we have an aggressive advertising manager and that the model railroad industry supports the NMRA by advertising in our magazine. The magazine expenses can be lumped into four main categories: printing and distribution, editor, postage, and author payments. Our author payment schedule is comparable to the commercial model press, though some of our authors donate their articles and receive no payment.

The Non-Dues Programs (about 40% of income) are a mix of activities that do not depend on dues for funding, yet provide a positive cash flow to off-set the deficits in operations and magazine. There are three parts to the Non-Dues Programs: Annual Convention and National Train Show, Fund Raising Programs (Company Store, Donations, e-Bay donation program, Calendar, Address Labels), and the Diamond Club. Collectively, these programs have broad voluntary participation and generally result in a positive impact on the overall NMRA financial

stability.

Continued from Page 5

The Howell Day Museum is considered a separate stand-alone cost center as it is funded exclusively by targeted donations by members and others committed to the project. No dues funds are used to pay Museum expenses. It completely pays its own way, including a portion of the headquarters building expense and administrative support costs. The major fund raising effort of the past several years is about to enter the construction phase in 2014. We thank all the members who have donated thus far and those who have pledged to donate in the future. This is an exciting project.

This is a brief explanation of the major cost centers of the NMRA. Over the next few installments, I'll discuss our assets and liabilities in general, a review of some of our liabilities in detail, and the various "funds" that we maintain and monitor. As we redesign the website, all this information plus a review of our audits and budgets will be on the website...please be patient as it is coming. If you have questions or thoughts, please feel free to contact me via my contact information in the magazine or on the website. Frank Koch, NMRA CFO

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

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer Editor

The May issue of Up The Holler was distributed in a new way. Those of you who opened the email found a link instead of the usual PDF attachment. The review I received were generally positive. Somehow three members managed to hit the Unsubscribe button in error. The email service is nasty about putting people who have unsubscribed back onto the distribution list so I'll just upload the old one, with new additions, for this issue.

It was rather interesting to see that only about half the Coal Division members to whom the email was sent even opened the email. It appears that only a very few of the other MCR Superintendents opened the email and even the gentleman who writes the column about the things in Division newsletters apparently didn't open it! Well, as the saying goes, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.

There are only a few Coal Division members who receive a paper copy of UTH, unfortunately it is only in black and white. The color version is available at www.coaldivision.org. Even if you do not have your own computer or internet service, you can access that from any internet connected computer such as at a family member, friend, or public library.

I recently gave a clinic to the members of Division 10 in Lexington, KY and had a chance to see the venue for the

2015 convention. The Campbell House is the grand old hotel in Lexington but it is showing its age. The good news is that it is receiving a full update. We were able to see recently refurbished guest rooms and they really look nice. We also were able to see the meeting room space although it was a construction site. It looks like all convention events will be close to each other minimizing the need to roam the hotel looking for each event.

The convention organizers are doing a fine job of getting things together. In a first for the MCR, online registration will be available this fall. If that does not appeal to you, the usual paper system will also be available. They are also trying something new with the schedule. There will be no clinics in the evenings but self guided layout tours will be available Thursday and Friday evening as well as Sunday. This will allow the opportunity to see layouts that may not be on the way home. Lexington also has many attractions for spouses, I fully expect this to be a very well attended convention. Save the dates of May 14 through 17, you will want to be there.

Finally, the May meeting minutes are late this month, they will be published in the next issue along with the June meeting minutes. The minutes on page 4 are the corrected version of the April minutes incorporating the correction to the error noted at the May meeting.

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 or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



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.



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV



PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

Bob Weinheimer, President
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Midland Atlantic

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NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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THE CRUSTY ROAD

CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR
Assistant Superintendent
Chesapeake, OH



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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HINTON DIVISION

Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV



WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY

THOMAS SUBDIVISION

RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT
RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



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
AandNRR@aol.com



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR
398 MOUNT VIEW DR
CHARLESTON WV
25314-1041

Upcoming Coal Division Events

**June 14
Marion, OH**

**July 12
Tentatively Elkins, WV**

**August 9
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV**

**September 13
Portsmouth, OH**

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.