



# UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

July 2014



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## HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Gary Burdette MMR

I always try to promote the enthusiasm we all share for our hobby each time I write something for the newsletter but this month I must relay a somber message.

I recently learned that Bob Porterfield, one of our newest members, passed away in April. I had contacted his brother, Jim, about the possible visit to Elkins this summer when he related the sad news. Many of you may have gotten to visit with the brothers as they came down to both the St. Albans and Charleston stations on a few occasions. Bob had moved over to Jim's "neck of the woods," and was getting involved in the hobby, as we learned in getting to know him. Several members enjoyed meeting both fellows as they began to participate in the group. We offer our condolences to his family.

I had the privilege to talk with Bob at our meeting in Charleston. We chatted at length about our love of trains. His enthusiasm was contagious, and I guess I am still writing about that subject because Bob exuded it. His loss will be felt in the Coal Division.

The enthusiasm and joy we get from pursuing trains can continue, especially in the spring, as Jim has been working with the owner of BTS to arrange a tour and the Virginian Display is still scheduled for exhibition at the museum in the Elkins depot. I'm told there are a couple of other modelers in the area, and Jim has begun a club with some college kids at Davis and Elkins. I know Bob was looking forward to these activities and getting everyone involved. I hope we can "make this happen" so all of us may meet the new guys and anticipate the "Meeting in the Mountains" this spring.

Because we had to abandon the St Albans Depot for a while, due to water line problems, we adopted the Charleston Station. A sort of phenomenon occurred as a result. Matt thought we should bring model stations as an acknowledgment of the change in venue and the importance of the local depot. Jim and Bob had a couple, Nathan brought one, I had some plans, and Bob W., Dan, Paul, and Jerry had slide shows. A new theme or method of operation began to evolve-stations, this time. What is next?

More on this later...

Thanks to all who helped relay the information to Marion, and to Dan who assumed the chair for our division at the joint meeting with Division 6. I hear we had a good turnout and all went well. Sorry I couldn't make it.

## MEETING NOTICE

The July meeting will be held at the St. Albans Depot, Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue, St. Albans, WV. The doors will open at 1PM with the business meeting starting at 2PM. The contest will be off line structures, see Paul's contest column for more details. Gary Burdette MMR will present the clinic, "The St. Albans Depot: The Possibilities".

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn

Well, our annual combined meeting at Marion, OH is in the rear view mirror. Although it was a five and one half hour drive each way for me, I wouldn't have missed it. To give you an idea of how tired I was; I passed up a chance to stay overnight at Jim Rollwage's home and get another look at his fabulous UP layout. The weather was great and NS and CSX took turns entertaining us with numerous passing trains. AC tower was open as was the HO layout in the depot building. As always, the Marion Union Station people were gracious hosts and I always look forward to eating at the Shovel.

I had the opportunity to sit in as our Division representative at the Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting as Gary was unable to be present. The main order of business was bringing the MCR by laws up to date and compatible with Board decisions made over the past couple of years. There was a lively discussion of the process of bringing adjoining Counties in to the Region should members in those Counties feel that they would be better served by being included in the MCR. It seems there are modelers in an adjoining region who feel that the distance to events in their region, including occasionally having to cross in to Canada is not conducive to them being able to fully participate in their current region. The Board decided that should the modelers involved go through the proper process of petitioning their region, and if they are denied, the National NMRA; we would welcome them in to the fold.

Our next meeting will be back at home base, the St. Albans depot. This gives an opportunity to touch base with the old girl, as Gary would say, and get back to my monthly routine of lunch at Diehls, a visit to WV Hobby and

Crafts then the meeting. It will feel good to be home. We really do appreciate Matt Crouch making the Charleston depot available while the water issue was corrected.

The day after our next meeting it is off to Cleveland for some of us for the National Convention. I am glad that my clinic will be over on Monday evening so it won't be on my nerves during the week. My great fear is that it may be a little too basic for the type of crowd that attends a National.

For those wondering about what became of the idea of having the July meeting in Elkins, WV here is the story. James Porterfield, who proposed the idea, had a death in his family making it difficult for him to plan. In addition to that it was a concern that it was a very long drive for most members especially those who were traveling to Cleveland on the following day. Gary and I are discussing possibly having a meeting, or perhaps a McGeeney type excursion, at Elkins this fall or next spring.

Our National President, Charlie Getz, brought down a firestorm on himself when he said, in the *NMRA Magazine* that he didn't "get" operations. This should be a reminder to all of us that model railroading as a hobby is a very large tent. For myself operating as close to prototypical as possible without making it hard work is a goal. Others like to build things, or do trackwork, scenery, etc. We have followers of different gauges, different eras, different railroads, or just complete modelers license; do whatever you like.

See you at the meeting!

## RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

There was no raffle at June's meeting in Marion with Division 6, but with our anticipated return to our home base in St. Albans C&O Depot instead of Elkins, the raffle will be back on!

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

## 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.

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

## CONTEST REPORT

Paul Lapointe

June's meeting was our annual meeting with Division 6 at Marion Station. We followed our host in having the same contest categories: modelers choice model and photograph. Division 6 kept their contest separate from ours, however, so as a result I was the only entrant in both categories for Division 9's contest. So, by default, I won the model contest with a Freight House, and a switcher photo.

This Month:

July's meeting is back in St. Albans at the C&O Depot. The contest category is off-line structures. The NMRA Achievement Program has a very general definition of a structure: it's man made and doesn't fit any other category. An offline structure includes any structure not directly connected to a railroad track.



**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
**THE COAL DIVISION**  
**Dave Stout's House Parkersburg, WV**  
**May 3, 2014**  
**Minutes**

Meeting Called to order at 1:50 p.m.

**Superintendent Report**

Bob introduced the new officers: Gary Burdette – Superintendent, Dan Mulhern – Assistant Superintendent. Gary's first order of business was to present Bob with a certificate of appreciation for his service as Superintendent over the past four years. Members introduced themselves. There were several guests from Division 2 and Division 6. Gary discussed the NMRA effort to create standards for LEGO railroads, Hi-Rail, and operations. He mentioned some observations about bringing new people into the hobby, particularly younger people.

**Division Clerk Report**

Treasury balance is currently \$8,710.92  
 Newsletter Expenses \$80.43.  
 There was no raffle.  
 April minutes were approved with one addition.

**Assistant Superintendent Report**

Dan mentioned his priority was that we continue to enjoy our hobby. He welcomes any input.

**Membership Chair**

No Report

**Achievement Program**

Bob mentioned two members are close to earning AP certificates.

**Newsletter Chair**

Bob agreed to take over newsletter responsibilities. Several members accidentally unsubscribed while trying to read the last issue. Gary thanked Dan for his hard work in the past.

**Raffle**

There was no raffle.

**Clinic Chair**

Dan is always looking for new clinics. Gary mentioned several members expressing ideas for future clinics.

**Old Business**

Gary showed a copy of some proposed changes to the constitution proposed by Bill Wadsworth.

**New Business**

Dennis suggested we use the depot grill soon. Bob Weinheimer announced he will be a candidate for the NMRA Vice-President in the next election.

Paul asked about the July meeting location and the timing with the National convention which begins the next day. Gary will inquire about potentially moving an Elkins meeting to another month.

**Announcements**

There will be a series of presentations called *Whistles by the Depot* at the St Albans depot this evening starting at 7 p.m.

Division 9 will have a display at the St Albans depot May 10 for the Founder's Day celebration. Several Division 9 members will be participating by giving presentations. The water is repaired at the depot and damage repairs are complete.

**Future Meetings**

June 14 -- Joint with Division 6, Marion, OH  
 July 12 -- potentially in Elkins, WV  
 August 9 -- St Albans Depot  
 September 13 -- Portsmouth, OH Mark

Maynard's home

Meeting adjourned 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

Marion, OH

June 14, 2014

### Minutes

**Call to Order:** The joint meeting of Division 6 and Division 9 was called to order at 3:59PM by outgoing Division 6 Superintendent Robert Lee. Mr. Lee expressed the thanks of all present for the hospitality of the Marion Union Station folks. The below minutes are limited to business related to Division 9 and Division 6 business is deleted.

**Approval of prior minutes;** The minutes of the May 2014 meeting were not published in *Up The Holler* and will be published in the next issue. The corrected minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the June *Up The Holler*.

**Superintendent Report;** Due to a problem at home; Gary Burdette was unable to attend.

**Assistant Superintendent Report;** Dan Mulhearn spoke briefly on his comments in the latest issue of *UTH* regarding his commitment to facilitating the ongoing operations of the Division.

**Division Clerk;** Jerry Doyle was not present but reports no major changes in our financial status.

**Newsletter;** Bob Weinheimer reports the usage of Mail Chimp to electronically distribute the newsletter seems to have worked out well for most members. He also noted that some members are not even opening the newsletter.

**Achievement Program;** Bob W. reports that Paul Lapointe's scenery has been reviewed for his scenery certificate and Dan Mulhearn has had his work reviewed for his electrical certificate. Bob Osburn submitted a model

of a tug boat for judging and earned a merit award. Division 6 AP manager Howard Smith encouraged Bob to enter the model in the contest at the national convention.

**Web Site;** Bob W reports that Paul Lapointe's layout will be posted on the Division web site.

**Contest;** In deferral to Division 6 practice; the contest was judged prior to the meeting. The contest was member's choice. The winner was Paul Lapointe's country store model. The photo contest first and second prize was awarded to Paul Lapointe.

Raffle; Division 9 did not have a raffle in June as Division 6 had a raffle.

**Old business;** none

**New business;** none

**Announcements;** Due to a death in Jim Porterfield's family plans for a Division 9 meeting at Elkins WV in July are deferred to a possible spring 2015 date. The July meeting will be at the St. Albans depot on Saturday, 7/12. Clinic is to be announced and the contest will be off line structures. The August meeting will be at the St. Albans depot and our annual barbecue will occur.

**Adjournment;** On a motion by Bob Lee, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46PM.

Respectfully submitted;  
Dan Mulhearn, Acting Clerk

## MY WORD Bob Weinheimer Editor

As Gary noted in his column, it was a shock to hear of the passing of one of our newest members. Bob seemed like quite an asset to the Division, it is too bad we didn't have the opportunity to get to know him better. My thoughts go to his brother and fellow Division member Jim Porterfield.

If you didn't make it to Marion you missed quite a day. While I've been there several times, I don't recall anywhere near the amount of train traffic of that day. The clinics, MCR BOD meeting, and the Division meeting were all interrupted by multiple trains. In addition to the

trains, there were two very good clinics. For me, one of the biggest surprises was Bob Osburn's N scale tugboat, I discuss that more in the Achievement Program column.

Those who attended the board meeting saw one of the feistier ones we have had in quite a while. It is good to see a couple of the new superintendents take their job seriously.

Due to an error on my part, last month's newsletter email did not have a proper link to the web site. Hopefully that will not be the case with this issue!



## PRODUCT REVIEW

### Dan Mulhearn

I recently have decided that my slowly abuilding layout is going to represent the N&W/NS Clinch Valley line. In particular the area around Norton, VA where there was interchange with the L&N and the Southern (ex Interstate) as well as St Paul, VA where there was interchange with the Clinchfield. In addition the L&N and now the CSX have trackage rights over the N&W/NS line between Norton and St. Paul. So, we now have to build a fleet of SOU, INT, CRR and L&N hoppers to go with our existing N&W/NS fleet. There are currently no decals available for L&N hopper cars, at least that I could find. I found three Con Cor L&N hoppers, all in freight car brown and all numbered 153745. Upon checking my Oct. 1968 equipment register I noticed that the 15XXXX series is a 70 ton hopper and my models are lettered as 100 ton hoppers which should be in the 19XXXX series. They do however have properly gauged 33" wheels which be correct for a 70 ton hopper. Plan A was to renumber the cars and exchange the 33" wheels for 36" wheels. Then I discovered a website called [appalachianrailroadmodeling.com](http://appalachianrailroadmodeling.com) and was able to locate some pictures of hoppers

built by knowledgeable L&N modelers. It seems the car is closer in every way to the 70 ton car than the 100 ton car; except for the incorrect capy and lmt weights. So leave them in the 15XXXX series and change or obscure with weathering the incorrect weight stencils is my answer. The model is a reasonable facsimile of the prototype car. The couplers are plastic knuckle couplers but at least they have a spring and are at the correct height. When they break I will replace them with KDs which should be fun since the coupler box covers are securely glued to the draft gear box. The trucks have the correct 33" wheels though the roller bearing side frames are for 100 ton trucks. The model weighs 4.0 oz. with the included realistic looking plastic coal load. According to the NMRA RPs it should weigh 4.5 oz. Note the comparison below. On the left is a model of a 70 ton hopper by Anthony Hardy, photo by Dan Bourque. In the middle is my model, photo by me. On the right is a 100 ton hopper, model by Stu Thayer, photo by Dan Bourque. I think my model is close enough though I may try and add those peaked ends.



## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### Bob Weinheimer MMR

June brought a big surprise: Bob Osburn brought a scratchbuilt N scale Chessie System tugboat to the Marion meeting for AP judging. Division 6 AP Chairman Howard Smith MMR and I did the job and Bob ended up with a fantastic score of 114 points. Howard is strongly encouraging Bob, who is unable to attend the convention in Cleveland due to a schedule conflict, to send the model with a proxy for the contest. Photo by Don Wilke.



## Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News For June, 2014

### NMRA ECONOMICS – part 3 (Frank Koch, NMRA CFO, June 2014)

This month I'll discuss the Assets and Liabilities aspects of the NMRA financial world. Assets are those elements (think things that have a positive cash value) that contribute to our value. Liabilities are those commitments (think obligations) we have that decrease our value. The difference between the two is the net value of the corporation. Remember, we are trying to keep this simple.

**ASSETS** – We organize our assets into six categories: cash, receivables, capital assets, investments, inventory, and pre-paid expenses. Cash is the sum of the deposits in our various bank accounts and the cash in our investment account. Receivables are those sums owed to NMRA by others, i.e., invoices we made that are not paid by someone else. The biggest items in this area are the unpaid HDM pledges. Capital Assets are the depreciated book value (we depreciate capital assets above threshold values and life expectancy) for our equipment. There was a major change when we sold the HQ building as we converted a physical asset into a "cash" asset (it actually mostly went to investments). Investments are the current market value of the various investments – stocks, bonds, money market – that are held by the NMRA. I'll cover this in a future column. Inventory is the value of the various items remaining in our company store – books, gauges, apparel, etc. Pre-paid expenses are those deposits and bills we have paid that provide services in a future fiscal year.

For 2013, here is a summary of our Assets at the end of the year:

Cash	\$ 502,011
Receivables	\$ 28,166
Receivables (HQ Sale)	\$ 896,360
Capital Assets	\$ 16,752
Investments	\$ 834,634
Inventory	\$ 33,880
<u>Pre-paid Expense</u>	<u>\$ 64,463</u>
Total Assets	\$2,376,266

**LIABILITIES** – The other side of the ledger is more complex in some ways as the NMRA has a large number of commitments that fall into broad classifications according to common accounting principles. The major elements are unearned revenue, taxes payable, fund balances, and equity. Unearned revenue is anything that has been paid in advance and is to be used in a future year to cover an obligation. This includes part of the Life Fund, member payments for future memberships or conventions, and a portion of the current year payments for dues and subscriptions which are reserved for next fiscal year. Unearned funds are moved into current income in the year in which they are to be used. Taxes payable are those taxes

due to governmental groups that have been set aside for later payment – think of it as a kind of escrow. Fund balances are the various committed set-asides where the money is reserved for a specific purpose, either by the donor or the BOD. I'll cover these in more detail in the future, but it includes the Diamond Club, the Howell Day Museum Fund, the Heart of America Fund, and several other commitments.

For 2013, NMRA liabilities were the following at the end of the year:

Accounts Payable	\$ 8,895
Accrued Vacation Liability	\$ 12,000
Unearned Revenue	\$ 798,717
Taxable Payable	\$ 175
Unrestricted designated Assets*\$	323,209
Unrestricted, non-designated Assets**\$	910,997
<u>Temporarily Restricted Assets***</u>	<u>\$ 322,273</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$2,376,266

\*=Life Service Obligation, Dean Freytag Memorial Fund

\*\* = Approximately 2.5 months operating expenses and BOD reserve fund

\*\*\* = Heart of America, Howell Day Museum, Diamond Club

At the end of every fiscal year, the NMRA hires an independent accounting firm to audit our finances and prepare a report for the BOD and to prepare our tax filings. The firm reviews all our records and spends about a week at HQ to examine the documentation and to ask questions of the staff. We passed the 2013 audit with no issues or weaknesses. The results will be posted on the new website after the audit is accepted by the BOD.

Next time, I'll review the various funds we use to keep track of specific commitments that will require cash at some point in the future...and we need to be sure to set it aside.

From Model Retailer magazine

### Model Power closes

After more than 50 years in business, hobby product manufacturer Model Power has closed. The third-generation, family owned company stopped taking new retail customers on April 21 said Chief Financial Officer Jonathan-Tager. An announcement was posted on its website on April 22. The company is exploring licensing options for its product lines and the possibility of selling off any of its tooling that might be readily availa-

Continued next page

ble, Tager said. "We thank everybody for all of their support over the years, and we apologize for any inconveniences," Tager said

From Train Show, Inc

**Train Show Inc. acquires assets of Great Train Expo shows**

Train Show Inc., the corporate parent of Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Great Midwest Train Show, and World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, announced that it has acquired the assets of Great Train Expo. Train Show Inc will be sponsoring shows in many of the venues formerly used by Great Train Expo.

"This is a natural expansion of our business," said Randy Bachmann, President of Train Show Inc. "This purchase

allows us to sponsor shows from coast to coast."

Continued from previous page

More information and a new show schedule will be posted online at [www.trainshow.com](http://www.trainshow.com).

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

Regards,

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

## 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](http://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.





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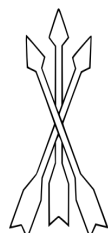


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AND  
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Mark Maynard, President  
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR  
Assistant Superintendent  
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**HINTON DIVISION**

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**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY  
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RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT  
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**NEW RIVER GORGE  
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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  
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## **Upcoming Coal Division Events**

**July 12**

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

**August 9**

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

**September 13**

**Portsmouth, OH**

**October 11**

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