



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC
February 2017



DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent
Dan Mulhearn
304-466-9188
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Clerk- Jerry Doyle
304-638-2826
clerk@coaldivision.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen
Ed Keith MMR
740-867-5264
Bob Weinheimer MMR
304-343-1428
ap@coaldivision.org

Clinic
Robert Osburn
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest
Larry Richards

Education
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Election
Bill Wadsworth
304-768-3266
nominating@coaldivision.org

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle
Tom Harris

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR
webmaster@coaldivision.org

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

I'm filling in for Gary again this month. He will be undergoing surgery this week. Our thoughts are with him and I know we all wish him a speedy recovery.

I'm thinking about people this month. We get to meet and know some interesting people through work or other things in life but the people I'm thinking of are those we meet through our hobby. Through it we meet an incredible cross section of people.

I've met people who have done interesting things such as been in charge of a presidential security detail, been a certified beer taster (yes that's a real thing), and sailed a small motor craft through international waters. I've been surprised at the kinds of pursuits our hobby takes such as scratch building narrow gauge models but not in the typical On30 but in HOn30 using N scale track, modeling the prewar Pennsylvania Railroad with exceptional prototype accuracy in N scale, and taking a 10' x 10' room and creating an HO layout that you can realistically operate for hours.

I've been amazed at the abilities of people who can take everyday things such as cereal boxes and turn them into award-winning models, take common household items and turn them into part of a steel mill, and take a tube of super glue and make it into an N scale water column. I've been utterly impressed with the cleverness of modelers doing things like taking common metal studs and hollow doors and making them into benchwork, making a flickering television in a display window in N scale using a simple LED, or using simple R/C plane parts to link together switches.

Some amazing things huh? These are all descriptions of our members. Our group is quite the microcosm of the hobby in general. The level of talent of our group never ceases to amaze me.

Jerry Doyle

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

It has been a week since I sat down to get this on paper and it seems between Nina's doctor visits and meetings, first responder calls, and all the other stuff I'd never get done. We are approaching our February event at the depot and I am sure looking forward to it. This is the time of year when cabin fever tends to settle in.

There are a couple of articles that caught my eye in the February issue of the *NMRA Magazine*. The first one is by a former lone wolf modeler and how he discovered operations and earned his Chief Dispatcher AP certificate. If you enjoy operating all you need is fill in the hours and do some paperwork. To me it was a rather easy certificate to earn as well as fun. The second article was an easy to understand one concerned with using a smart phone as a DCC throttle. There were a number of interesting tidbits in the Division Business Car portion of the magazine. Our neighbors in MCR Division 3 occasionally run a "make it cheap" model contest where your entry must be built for five dollars or less. The officers of the Mid Continent Region, Kansas Central Division which is widely spread out like we are, have a getting to know you program. They contact and interview willing members and from that information prepare an article for their newsletter.

The other night I was listening to the 50s music channel on Sirius XM and got to feeling nostalgic. I am a child of the 50s and when I think of my childhood I think of the Long Island RR. The experience of train watching,

growing up in Valley Stream NY, was unique in many regards. It was heavy electric with four tracks. Actually it was the Montauk branch and the Atlantic branch running side by side. There were crossovers east and west of the platform which sat between the tracks of the Atlantic branch so trains could move from and to any of the four tracks. At the east end of the platform the two tracks of the Far Rockaway branch departed on a sharp curve to the south. A little further east was a layup track for the two car West Hempstead shuttle and a team track, which saw occasional use. About 1/4 mile further the West Hempstead branch veered off to the north. The whole shebang was presided over by Valley tower which sat between the tracks of the Atlantic branch just past the diverging Far Rockaway branch. The entire thing was elevated with parking below. Signals were, are still, position light ala Pennsy with the yellow colored fog bulbs. There was a constant parade of MU trains, most home built by the Pennsy at Altoona, PA. Around 4:30 in the afternoon was a special treat, a westbound diesel train out of Montauk swept through town. The power was always a Fairbanks – Morse streamlined C24-5 diesel. Little did I know that the clerk in the RPO on that train was Jimmy Byington, who was in a round robin operating group that I joined in my early 20s. A very different kind of railroading then many others might have grown up with, but a source of wonderful memories.

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 start the layout work the Monday 12 days before the meeting. This allows a day of review by the officers and a proofreader before the electronic version is issued, usually on Wednesday. The paper version is mailed Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by that 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.

March	February 27
April	March 27
May	April 24
June	May 29
July	June 26
August	July 24



**Mid-Central NMRA
Region Convention**

**May 18-21, 2017
Louisville, Kentucky**



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Anything Coal”

Saturday February 11, 2017

12:30 Depot Open

**1:00 Standard Social Time – Mixing/
Viewing**

2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing

2:45 Contest Voting (Anything Coal)

3:00 Contest Results

Raffle

3:15 Clinic:

**Tom Harris will show us how he
make trees.**

CONTEST
Larry Richards
Photos by Jerry Doyle

The January contest drew quite a number of entries. Larry Richards and Jerry Doyle tied for first while Sam Delauter took third.

The February contest is "Anything Coal" which includes structures of any sort as well as any rolling stock.

We are going to try something new with the February contest. Instead of asking each entrant to stand up and discuss his model, a written description should be submit-

ted. This does not have to be anything like what is often prepared for a Regional or National contest, just enough to give the voters an idea of what makes the model worthy of their vote. Please bring this with you, but if you forget paper and pencils will be available for you to make some notes at the meeting.



Above is Larry's Chesapeake and Ohio caboose, to the right is Jerry's Crescent Valley caboose and below is Sam's Pennsylvania caboose.



NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
January 14, 2017
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Dan Mulhearn at 2:00 p.m.
Members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,082.17
December minutes were approved.
Pike Ads \$40.
Raffle Revenue \$50.

Superintendent Report

Gary was recuperating at home today.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Dan began by asking everyone remember Gary in their prayers. He mentioned Dave Stout's posting on Facebook Budget Model Railroaders group about using hockey sticks in his steel mill. He also mentioned another group called HO Scale Model Railroading and suggested we could add to the discussion helping new comers with their questions.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer noted that Tom Harris will be receiving his scenery AP Scenery certificate and is currently working on several other certificates as well.

Newsletter Chair

Bob Weinheimer noted Patrick Miller has submitted several stories on his layout progress, these will appear in the February and March issues. Bob also reminded members that Pike Ads are due.

Clinic Chair

Bob Osburn shared that we are trying to coordinate the clinics and contests. He challenged members to put a clinic together on topics of their expertise. One future topic mentioned was DCC decoders.

Contest Chair

Larry Richards said next month's contest would follow what was done last year.

Membership Chair

John Harris hoped to share membership information from national at a future meeting.

Raffle

Tom Harris mentioned we have lots of items for the raffle.

Library Report

Paul Lapointe noted that some of the clinics in our library are available on the NMRA website. The library is available for checkout.

Old Business

None

New Business

Bob Weinheimer moved that we change the May meeting to the first Saturday to accommodate Mother's Day. Motion carried.

Announcements

Dan Mulhearn shared that Clint Foster's layout has been dismantled and he has moved to Ohio. The KVRC Show will be held in February. N&W 611 tickets are now on sale for the 2017 excursion season.

Future Meetings

February 11 – St Albans Depot
March 11 – St Albans Depot
April 8 – St Albans Depot
May 6 – Steel is King Parkersburg, WV

Contest – Cabooses

February's contest -- will be Anything Coal
March's contest -- Diesels

Meeting adjourned 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

LED Layout Lighting Patrick Miller

It has been nine months since I wrote about my cantilevered benchwork for the April edition of *Up The Holler*. Boy, a lot sure has happened in 9 months! Progress on the construction on the Chesapeake, Huntington, Louisville & Chicago Railroad has far exceeded my expectations. In the April article, I mentioned that I had completed lighting for most of the lower level and had begun placement of track for the yard at Ravenswood, WV. I'll save a major layout update for the February edition of *Up The Holler*.

When I was still in the planning stages of building my layout, I studied how other modelers were lighting theirs. I watched a video through *Model Railroad Hobbyist* about Joe Fugate's lighting techniques on his Siskiyou Line. At the time he built his layout 25 years ago, low-wattage LED light bulbs were not readily available, nor affordable, so he hired an electrician to install extra breakers in his home's electrical panel dedicated just to the lighting of his layout. Inspired by his technique, I decided to check out what was available to avoid spending thousands on rewiring the house!

Lighting Design

I opted to use metal shallow ceiling fan boxes to attach the fixtures to the inside of the upper level benchwork. This allowed the basic plastic light fixtures to mount as close as possible to the 1"x4" benchwork. All fixtures were wired using 14 gauge standard house wire with ground. Initially, I installed the lighting at 4-foot spacing, but that turned out to be inadequate for photography. I later adjusted the lighting to 2-foot spacing which greatly improved the spread and intensity. The underhanging of the metal box and fixture against the benchwork is easily covered with the fascia.



Shallow Metal Ceiling Fan Box



Plastic Light Fix-

level benchwork. 13 bulbs at 8.5 watts each only draws 110 watts (1 amp); a very low draw. For comparison, the average coffee maker uses around 1,200 watts.

Light Temperature

About a month ago, it occurred to me that all of my pictures I were taking of layout progress were too yellow. I knew I was buying "warm" bulbs with a color temperature of 2,700 Kelvin, but I wasn't concerned about it, initially.

I found on Mike Deverell's blog about his Colorado Front Range, that he was alternating "cool" and "warm" bulbs to strike a balance. But his lighting was far more than 30" from his backdrop, which was my case. Some of you may be wondering how degrees Kelvin applies to your layout. The best way to explain color temperature is through this chart. In simplest terms, the higher the number, the cooler (or more blue) the light output.

Colour Temperatures in the Kelvin Scale

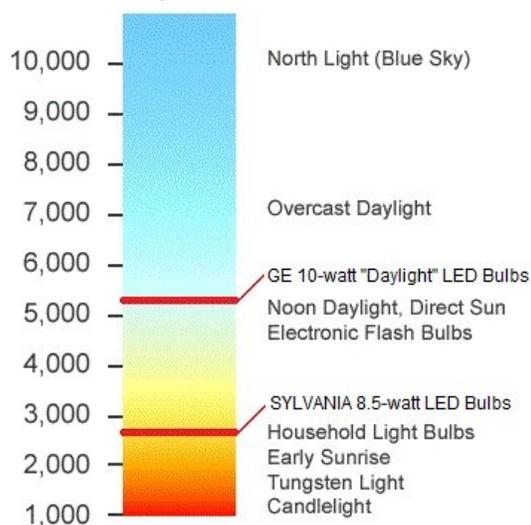


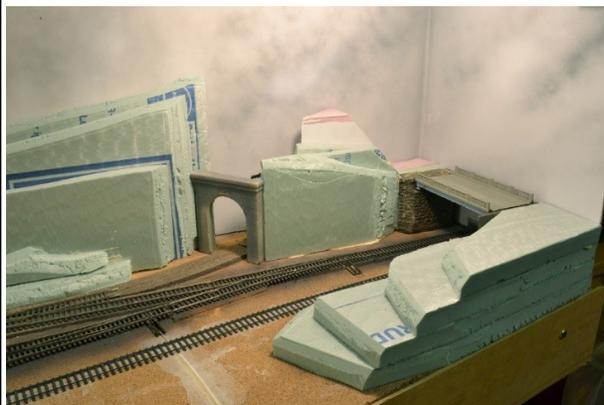
Image courtesy of www.mediacollege.com

As you can see, the 2,700K bulbs I was using puts out a very yellow light. I purchased some GE 10-watt "Daylight" LED bulbs with a color temperature of 5,300 Kelvin and gave them a try, alternating with the warmer Sylvania bulbs.

As you can see, the difference of color temperature is remarkable. The overhead bench work for the upper level was originally painted a sky blue with the intent of doing a blue sky before I changed my mind a few months ago. However, the difference is *too* remarkable. I'm going to have to choose between one or the other. I'm leaning towards the GE Daylight bulbs now....especially with modeling "dead winter" scenery.



Lets look at a side by side comparison of the same locations with the different bulbs. These are at the tunnel to staging to the west of Ravenswood. The left image is with the Sylvania LED bulb from a few days ago. The right, the GE Daylight LED bulb.



Besides the obvious hotwire work on the scenery, the difference is quite noticeable!
In the March Issue, I'll have a non-specific update on my layout construction.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

Last month I noted that Jerry Doyle and I had made the trip to Wytheville, VA to look at Tom Harris's layout and to evaluate his scenery. I knew a merit level was going to be the result, all we had to do was to generate the number. That was done and the Statement of Qualifications for his scenery certificate was submitted to the Mid Eastern Region Achievement Program Manager. Tom also submitted the SOQ for the author certificate.

We have since heard that both have been approved at the Region level and have been passed along for final review at the National level. One of these months we will be able to present Tom with the first of what I hope will

be many AP certificates.

Remember, we are always willing to come to your layout to evaluate things like scenery, electrical, civil engineering, and even structures that cannot be easily transported to an event. If it travels well, bring it to a meeting and we can handle it there. Remember that the judging process (sorry, we don't use that term any more, it's evaluation) can be a two way conversation where questions can be asked in order to clarify any issues. This is very unlike a contest where such interaction is prohibited. So, bring your models to us, the evaluation process is much less stressful that you might imagine.

NMRA INFONET NEWS

Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Director Election

The RAC Director election opened on Saturday, December 10, 2016 and closed at the end of the day on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

The election was run using electionbuddy, an online voting system.

Election administrator Rick Coble sent an email prior to the opening of the election. The email included an example of the election announcement email and instructions to begin voting. Electionbuddy then sent an email to all RAC members at the opening of the election on December 10. The announcement included a unique voting key and instructions to begin voting.

Ballots were submitted by 16 of the 18 RAC members. Results of the election were:

Steve August - 9 votes

Steve Barkley - 4 votes

Paul Mangan - 3 votes

Based on the results, Steve August was elected RAC Director.

Model reviewers wanted for "Research & Test Car column"

Ever thought you'd like to do product reviews for NMRA Magazine? We're looking for individuals who want to share their knowledge and passion for models with other NMRA members. You'll have fun doing it and you'll be paid author rates!

For more information, contact editor Cynthia Priest at sreditor@pairedrail.com

Patent and trademark attorney needed

The NMRA needs a volunteer patent and trademark attorney to manage the various patents and trademarks owned by the NMRA. It will not entail a significant amount of time – most likely just one to two hours a month on the average. The attorney would monitor the patents and trademarks to meet all deadlines for renewal and to maintain the intellectual property. This position would report to the NMRA General Counsel, Robert J. Amsler, Jr.

Please contact Robert Amsler at nmrlegal@charter.net if you're interested.

NMRA Winter BOD meeting is in Atlanta, GA on February 18-19, 2017

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will once again be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 18, and 19 at the Drury Inn & Suites at the Atlanta airport. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 17, and the Board will be in caucus that evening. Both of those meetings are only open to invited guests. The regular, open session of the BOD meeting begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 18. Because the agenda is not yet finalized, there's no way to tell if the meeting will continue on Sunday. All members are invited to attend the open sessions. Watch www.nmra.org for details.

Registration for the NMRA 2017 Convention in Orlando, FL is open

Register for the convention on line at www.nmrastores.com and choose the 2017 convention tab. If you'd like a paper registration form, visit www.nmra2017orlando.org.

LIBRARY CORNER

Bill Wadsworth

Recently there has been some more interest in our Div. 9 DVD library, which is really great as there is some great modeling information that the members can take advantage of. I'm still looking for any DVDs that the members would like to donate/lend to the library. Any

contributions will enhance the library and make it useful to all. I will strive to bring the DVDs to all the "home" meetings (St. Albans depot), but returns or donations are welcome anytime.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As the editor I always look forward to the items submitted for publication. Even the regular columns can be of great interest. A good example is Jerry Doyle's column on the front page. I am one of those with a strange accomplishment that he cited, do you know which? I'm sure I've mentioned it to some of you otherwise Jerry wouldn't have known about it. Think it over and if we remember I'll mention it at the February gathering.

Unless the weather interferes with travel, I plan to head to Atlanta for the NMRA Board of Directors meeting February 18. Do you have any questions for the Board members, officers, or department heads? Do you have a message you would like me to deliver to any of these hard working volunteers? If so, mention it to me at the next meeting or send me an email.

Speaking of the BOD, it's election season and those of our members living in Ohio and Kentucky will be voting for the new holder of the Central District seat on the BOD. Outgoing MCR President Steve Kaplan is one of the candidates, Bill Neale from Michigan is the other. If you haven't received it already, you should be getting a notice of the election and the two options for voting: old fashioned paper ballot or new fangled electronic voting. If you choose the new method, please let me know how it worked as the Mid Central Region might want to consider it for the election of our officers.

I haven't mentioned progress on the Pennsylvania Southern recently. The most recent nice warm day I opened up the windows, hooked up a big fan, and airbrushed all the new track a weathered black. That sure makes a difference! The next stop on that part of the layout is ballast but my higher priority is to rebuild Waynesburg after the February 9 operating session. That is a manageable area, a few inches

wide by about 14 feet long. I've figured out how to handle the lead to the coal mine and the switches have been built. After Waynesburg is done it will be time to work north from Thayer Sand and Gravel through Canonsburg and on toward Bridgeville.

On small issue I have encountered with the Fast Tracks turnouts is that the distance from the points to the point of the frog is about 3/4" shorter than for the Atlas turnouts I am replacing. For replacement of existing ladders of turnouts it is an issue. Turnouts behind, say, a mainline turnout start in a slightly different place meaning the switch machine has to move. If there is only one track leaving the turnout there is no issue and there is no issue for any new construction such as the Neville Island project as there are no existing switch machines to deal with.

I will have lots of switches in Bridgeville that will have to move a little but it looks like the sidings will be a little longer than before, a small benefit to the slightly different geometry.

I think we were all stunned to hear that the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus will soon be no longer. A major piece of its history will take place in the boundaries of the Coal Division.

As you may know, they have two shows each with a train that tours the country. The red train will finish its run in Providence, RI Sunday May 7, the train is expected to deadhead to Florida following the show. The blue train will be in Charleston, WV with shows ending May 7. The blue train, however, will have one more show in Hempstead, NY. That means that when the train leaves Charleston, it will be on its very last "revenue" move. This will be the last time to see a circus train on its way to another show. The train is expected to leave via the old Virginian on the brand new Kanawha River Railroad, probably in the early hours of May 8.

Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.



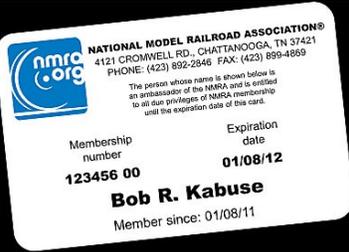
That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

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.



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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.



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Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV



PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

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



Midland Atlantic

Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



PIPESTEM BASEMENT
DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
304-466-9188
danmulhearn@gmail.com



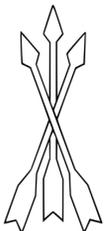
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Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR
Assistant Superintendent
Chesapeake, OH



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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



SHAMOKIN DIVISION

DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN
SUMMERSVILLE, WV
304-872-7262



HINTON DIVISION

Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV



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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendent
Ronceverte WV

Allegheny & 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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Western West Virginian



With Connections to the B&O, C&O, Western Maryland, West Virginia Northern

Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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

Upcoming Coal Division Events

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February 11
St. Albans Depot

March 11
St. Albans Depot

April 8
St. Albans Depot

May 6
Steel is King
Parkersburg, WV