



# UP THE HOLLER

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



## REMEMBERING GARY BURDETTE MMR Jerry Doyle

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. If I heard Gary say it once I heard him say it a thousand times.

Gary was a man of many interests. He had a tremendous enthusiasm for anything connected to West Virginia's history and American history among many others. It was not just an interest in railroads that led Gary and I to become friends, we shared numerous interests and we expanded each other's horizons over the years into new areas.

Gary was a dedicated educator. He taught middle-school science for many years and then became a counselor and work-based experience supervisor. He touched many lives in his work and he felt it was very important.

Gary was an artist in the truest sense and a man of many talents. I remember one meeting at Dave Stout's home when we went looking for Gary; he was upstairs playing guitar with Rhonda. He produced many drawings for C&O structures over the years as well as cartoons and other art, usually with a railroad theme. I knew Gary was a Master Model Railroader decades before he received his MMR. He would often build structures from common household items or maybe even a Cheerios box. His skill was such that he sought out the toughest craftsman kits, which he seemed to finish in an amazingly short amount of time. We travelled to many conventions over the decades and if there was a contest involved, you could bet Gary would bring home some kind of an award. He was a prolific modeler of the C&O and was the editor of the C&O Historical Society *Basement Subdivision* for many years. He was the author of the 1994 book *Modeling the Chesapeake and Ohio* which remains in print to this day.

Over the years Gary and I travelled to see every subdivision of the C&O in West Virginia. On those journeys I learned much about the railroad and the region from Gary. He had an eye for details and a great memory and I cherish our many hours of travel together.

Gary and I, along with Lin Young, started construction on the Grafton & Greenbrier at Lin's house in Gallipolis, Ohio in 1990. None of us had ever built a layout on anything close to that scale before but we learned as we went. One of the prominent features on the G&G is the bridge at Burdette Creek that Gary built, hence its name. Working on that layout with Gary was a great experience.

Gary loved to talk. If you spent time with him you not only got to know him but many of the people in his life as well. His friends were a big part of his life and he counted many people as friends. Gary had a big heart and a rare sense of humor. There wasn't a trip together that didn't produce some kind of joke, observation, or event that we'd laugh about for years to come.

I can say without a doubt that you always felt valued and loved around Gary. He was one of the good guys.

Gary posing for his MMR photo that appeared in the NMRA Magazine with his Burdette Creek bridge on the Grafton and Greenbrier. Photo by Jerry Doyle



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## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

### Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

Gary J. Burdette was a man who will certainly be remembered. We knew him for his love for railroading and modeling but there is so much more to a good man. He was a good husband, father and grandfather, a respected teacher and counselor, and a gentleman. We can be sure of that on the testimony of his family, his fellow teachers, his former students, his Church and his community. The entire Division, in fact the Region as a whole, will miss his smiling demeanor, sense of humor, and unending supply of stories about railroads, among many other topics. Saturday the C&O Hawks Nest group met at Pipestem State Park, and seeing a C&O Meeting without Gary was like seeing a steam locomotive with no wheels. The Division will greatly miss Gary and we extend our deepest sympathy to Janie and the family.

The President of the Region, according to the rules, appointed me as Superintendent of Division 9. I will be following in the footsteps of dynamic past Superintendents Lin, Bob, and Gary. I approach this assignment with some trepidation to be trying to keep up the standards set by the aforementioned gentlemen. Therefore your support, encouragement, and ideas are solicited. We will work on naming an Assistant Superintendent and keep on going. I hope, in memory of Gary, we will keep the MADD program, the mini-clinics and the education going strong. I hope to see you in St. Albans for our upcoming event.

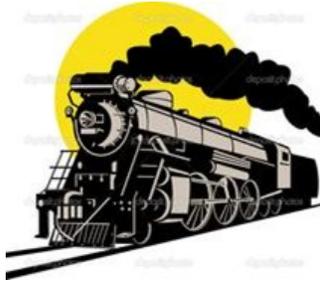
I am sorry to report that Dave Stout got a little roughed up in a vehicle crash. Dave reports he is getting around better and will be ready for Steel Is King day in May. That is always an event to look forward to.

**CLINICS****Bob Osburn, Clinic Chair**

Members gathered around Bob Weinheimer at the March meeting as he installed a decoder in an Athearn blue box locomotive. His step by step demonstration, while answering questions along the way, was a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Many thanks to Bob for presenting this clinic for Division 9.

The April Clinic will be titled “My Experiences Being a Locomotive Engineer” presented by Dennis McGeeney. We always enjoy Dennis’s humor and railroad knowledge and I’m looking forward to his informative presentation.

There is no clinic scheduled for May (Steel is King at Parkersburg, WVA). The opportunity is always open for any suggestions or volunteers for the upcoming June and July clinics, your participation would be greatly appreciated.



**Coal Division  
Monthly Railfun Event  
“Steam”**

***Saturday April 8, 2017***

- 12:30 Depot Open**
- 1:00 Standard Social Time – Mixing/Viewing,**
- 1:00 Contest entries: Steam power: locomotives, equipment, boats, or cars, whatever.**
- 2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing**
- 2:30 Tribute to Gary Burdette by Jerry Doyle**
- 3:00 Contest Results**
- Raffle**
- 3:15 Clinic: “My Experiences Being a Locomotive Engineer” by Dennis McGeeney**

**LIBRARY CORNER  
Bill Wadsworth**

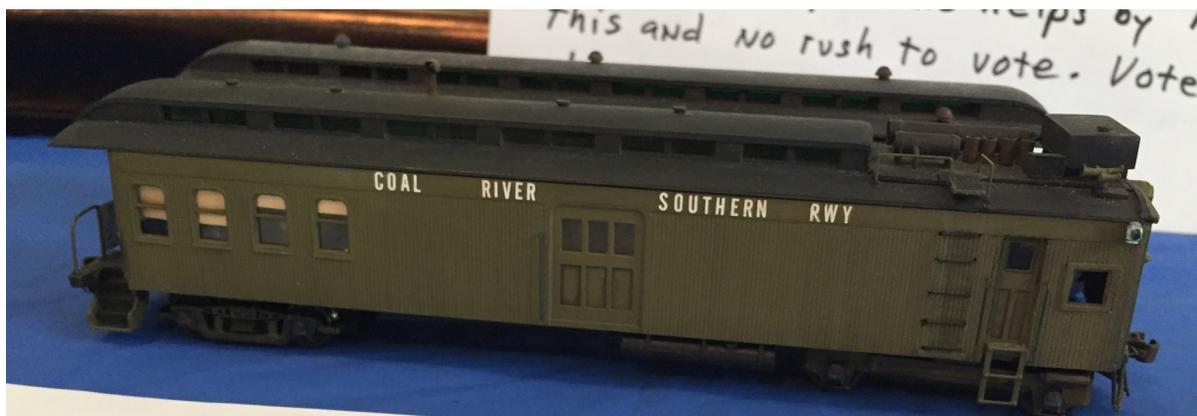
Recently there has been some more interest in our Div. 9 DVD library, which is really great as there is some great modeling information that the members can take advantage of. I'm still looking for any DVDs that the members would like to donate/lend to the library. Any

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.

**CONTEST**  
**Larry Richards**  
**Photos by Bob Weinheimer**

In our March contest Larry Richards finished first with his doodlebug. Jeremy Fuller finished second with this Lakeside Lines CF-7. There was no third place.

The April contest will feature steam. Anything steam powered, locomotives, equipment, boats, cars, whatever, are suitable entries.



**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

May	April 24
June	May 29
July	June 26
August	July 24
September	August 28
October	October 2

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot  
St Albans, WV  
March 11 2017  
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Dan Mulhearn at 2:04 p.m.  
Members introduced themselves.

### **Raffle**

Today's raffle follows the new offer of six tickets for \$5.

### **Division Clerk Report**

Treasury balance is currently \$9,119.17  
February minutes were approved.  
Pike Ads \$30.  
Raffle Revenue to be reported later.

### **Library Report**

Nothing new to report.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **Superintendent Report**

Gary Burdette was recuperating at home today.

### **New Business**

None

### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Dan Mulhearn mentioned his recent trip to Creson, PA. The city built a viewing platform but anything else was considered out of bounds by the township police.

### **Announcements**

Bob Weinheimer reported that NMRA dues will be increasing starting September 1. You can renew early for up to five years at the current rate. The display in California has been given a deadline of July 15, 2017.

### **Achievement Program**

Nothing new to report.

### **Future Meetings**

April 8 – St Albans Depot  
May 6 – *Steel is King* Parkersburg, WV  
June 9 – St Albans Depot  
July 14 – St Albans Depot

### **Newsletter Chair**

Bob Weinheimer mentioned Patrick's recent feature that ran five pages.

### **Clinic Chair**

Today's clinic was hands-on depot plumbing led by Bob and Dale Osburn. Volunteers were requested.

### **Contest – Diesels**

Meeting adjourned 2:12 p.m.

### **Contest Chair**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

### **Membership Chair**

John Harris was manning the display at the Kanawha Valley Show.

## Layout Expansion on the Pittsburgh & Western RR Part 9 by Paul Lapointe

Lighting the lower deck.

With multiple decks came the problem of the upper level blocking the room lighting and producing shadows on the lower level. In the past I've used rope lighting (tiny bulbs inside a clear tube) to remove the shadows. Rope lights barely did the job but were hard to work with. They're stiff, difficult to mount, need 120 volts, and are a fixed size – you can't cut it to length.

With new technology in lighting came the LED strip. It is a length of copper strip that has a circuit etched along its length. The circuit repeats every few inches allowing you to cut it to almost any length you need and the pieces continue to work! Each repetition of the circuit contains multiple LEDs that are very bright and even come in colors. The strip only needs safe 12 volts DC. They are very flexible. The LED strips are very popular for home and business accent lighting. Thanks to this popularity, they have become very inexpensive.

My lighting solution.

After studying the needs of my layout, I came up with a method of easily mounting the strips. I wanted the light to be directed where it was needed and not simply straight down. I chose to mount them along the bottom edge of the upper deck but at a 45 degree angle.

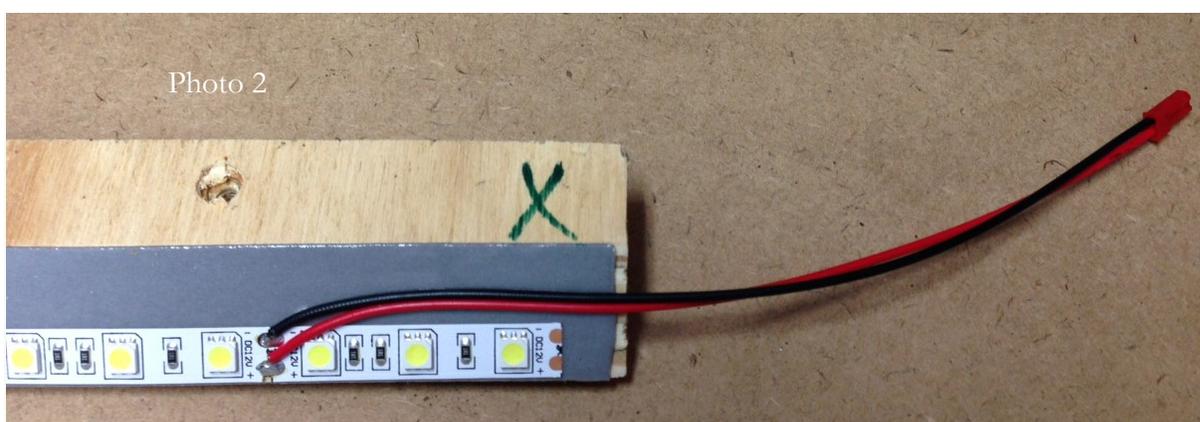
Photo 1 shows the supplies I used and the mounting method. Starting



from the upper left side, you see the reel of LEDs. The reel comes 16.5 feet long. It contains 300 very bright LEDs wired in groups of three. You can cut it to any length as long as you don't cut into a group of three. I purchased it from Amazon (search for part #4100066-DW-NF) for less than \$10. It is the "daylight white" color which matches my room lighting. Next is a roll of "Scotch permanent outdoor mounting tape" (search 4011-LONG), double sided tape that is very strong. The wood strips beside it are cut from plywood, 2 inches wide with a 45 degree angle cut on one edge. The angle cut has a face 1 inch wide, the same as the tape. The bottom of the photo shows the assembled light fixture.

Assembly.

To put it together, the wood is first cut to the required size and length, the tape is mounted next (very sticky and very strong!) and the red cover plastic removed exposing the top adhesive of the tape. Then the LED strip is cut to the length needed to fit the wood (but only cut at the designated spots!). The LED strips have an adhesive backing covered by a protective plastic strip. Remove this and press the LED strip onto the tape. The connecting wires are then soldered to the strip. The wires are physically held in place



by the adhesive. Mounting screw holes are drilled along the length of the wood.

Photo 2 is a close-up of the assembly. The wires are soldered to the two copper pads. I chose to use connectors, but you can use plain wires. The pads are marked + and -, so you have to wire correctly or it won't work. The copper pads repeat along the strip every three LEDs (those yellow looking squares) and you can use any of them since they are all in parallel. The pads are also the locations where you can safely cut the strip. You can see another pair of pads at the end where I cut it. They cut with scissors.

Powering the LED strips.

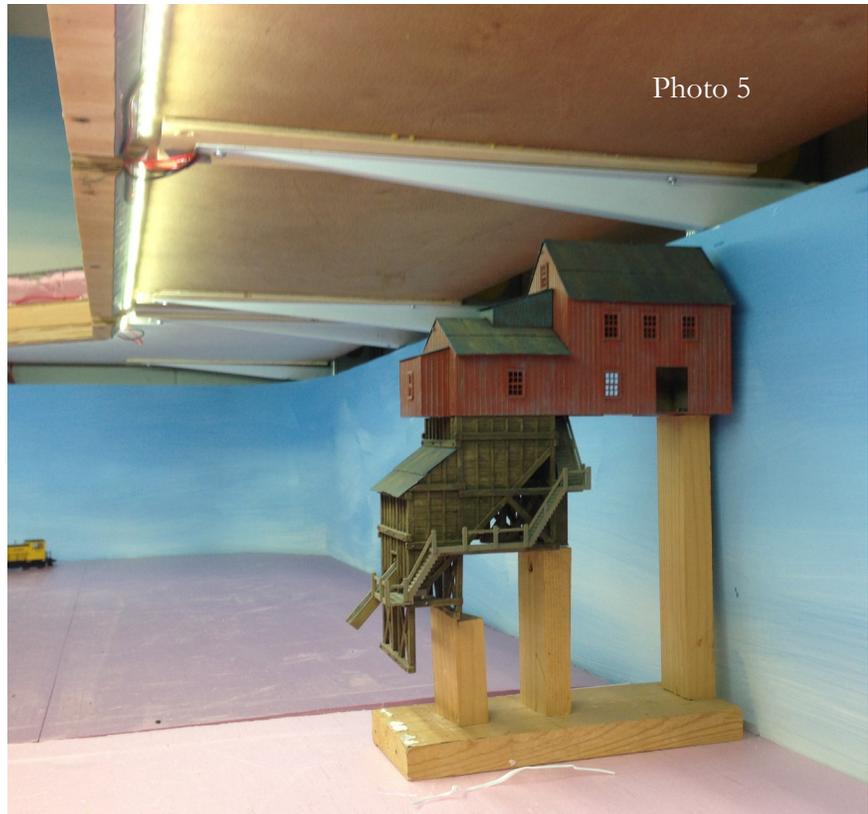
The type of LED strip, and the brightness determines the power requirements. This information will be in the specifications. The LEDs I chose use 12 volts at 6 amps for a full length reel (300 LEDs). I used a total of three reels to light my lower deck. That's 18 amps. That's a lot of current even at 12 volts. To handle this, I used a commercial power supply designed to handle LED strip lighting. Pho-



to 3. This one supplies up to 30 amps at 12 volts. Mine was about \$20. They come in many different capacities. Search for "switching power supplies for LED lighting"

In closing.

I'll close with some in-place photos, they are on the next page. Photo 4 shows the LED assembly mounted under the upper deck, but not turned on. You can see the shadow problem created with the use of an upper deck with just the room lighting. Photo 5 is the same scene with the LEDs powered up. As you can see, the lighting is much more even and the shadows are almost completely gone.



**MY WORD**  
**Bob Weinheimer, Editor**

I usually wait to write this column until I see what the officers have written. I don't want to repeat their comments but sometimes it is hard not to. At our last meeting it was reported that Gary Burdette was at home recuperating. A mere four days later, March 15, he was taken from us. It was quite an unpleasant surprise but please read again the first line of Jerry's article and look at all the good times. Jerry and Dan mention the various aspects of Gary's life. I knew he had been an educator but it was very heartwarming to see all the tributes from his students that appeared on Facebook. His daughter noted all the students who knew him as Mr. Burdette and all of us who knew him as Gary. She was proud to know him as Dad.

Jerry notes that he always regarded Gary as a Master Model Railroader, even before he was officially so designated. After his first six certificates, Gary had been working toward Prototype Model as his seventh. I was reviewing his volunteer activities one morning and realized he had just qualified for Association Volunteer. This was at about this time of year and we wanted him to be recognized at the upcoming convention. I got with Frank Koch, he

looked things over, and by the end of the day Gary was MMR 457. He was presented with his certificate and plaque at the convention by MCR President Dick Briggs.

This year's Mid Central Region Convention is drawing near, see the ad on this page. Click [here](#) to go to their convention web site. We will miss seeing Gary's models in the contest but we have some up and coming modelers who should consider entering the contest even if only by proxy. The convention has a great one day tour that includes a visit to a distillery, I hear you even get to sample the bourbon.

At the end of July and running into August is the NMRA National Convention. This year it is in Orlando and is being billed as a great place to take the family for all the other attractions in that area. Folks complain that it will be hot there in the summer but I've noticed it's not terribly cool in many northern cities at that time of the year. Nearly all convention activities will be in well air conditioned space so don't let the heat deter you.

Well, that's it for this issue. I hope to see many of you at the St. Albans Depot April 8.



**Mid-Central NMRA  
Region Convention**

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

# 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.

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## Upcoming Coal Division Events

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**April 8**  
**St. Albans Depot**

**May 6**  
**Steel is King**  
**Parkersburg, WV**

**June 10**  
**St. Albans Depot**

**July 8**  
**St. Albans Depot**