



UP THE HOLLER

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



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

While contemplating what subjects to address this month; the first thing that came in to my mind was the wonderful job being done over the past couple of months by our Assistant Superintendent, Bob Osburn. During the last days of Nina's illness, when travel became impossible, Bob stepped up at Parkersburg. He ran a good meeting and came up with or entertained several really good ideas for the Division. Although I was able to make the June meeting, Bob was on the spot with a prepared agenda in case I couldn't be there. His monthly report was very apropos, again with some excellent ideas and conversation starters. Last but not least he had prepared a sign up sheet to organize the upcoming July picnic on the platform. Thanks so much, Bob for your efforts. I believe we have chosen wisely.

An inquiry has been received from MCR Division 6 regarding our September meeting in Portsmouth. We certainly plan to entertain them with a joint Division meeting. Mark has confirmed September 9 with Bob Osburn. Don't forget this is also our annual flea market meeting; so begin to consider what you may wish to put up for sale. The Division gets a 10 % piece of your sales. I don't believe we should have a raffle at this meeting so as not to compete with the flea market. We will confirm that at the July business meeting.

Please keep in mind our good friend, and raffle chair, Tom Harris. He has had neck surgery and was unable to travel to the June meeting. If he is unable to attend the July meeting; I will go to his house and obtain the materials to conduct a raffle in July. Tom, we wish you well.

The National NMRA convention and National Train Show, at Orlando FLA is fast approaching. Go to NMRA.org for details and registration.

I have been going to grief counseling since the passing of my beloved wife, Nina. One of the things suggested was to write about the good memories and the good times. Of course a lot of those good times revolve around railroading and model railroading. Nina was very indulgent of my hobby. So, since it is therapeutic and involves both railroading and model railroading; here lies a tale.

We were going to attend the NMRA National Convention at Sacramento, CA in 2011. I had booked our Amtrak reservations one year in advance. We had a bedroom on the Cardinal from Hinton, WV to Chicago and a bedroom on the California Zephyr from Chicago to Sacramento. On the day prior to our departure Amtrak informed me the CZ was cancelled due to crew balancing issues following Midwestern floods. We were able to obtain a roomette space on the Southwest Chief to LA, where we would rent a car and drive to Sacramento. Now here is the story for my journal of our life together. We left Chicago in the late afternoon. After a wonderful meal I was anticipating a trip over Raton Pass and Glorieta Pass in daylight. But first was to sleep. Nina let me have the lower berth in the Superliner roomette. However, after she climbed into the upper berth she said it was too small and uncomfortable. OK, Mr. nice guy; I will take the upper berth. So, I climbed the ladder and started trying to insert myself in to that tiny space.. Now I have taken the upper berth on heritage

Continued page 2

From the Office Down the Hall

Bob Osburn

After the June meeting at St. Albans, several Division 9 members journeyed to Charleston for a layout tour of David Oliverio's N-Scale model railroad. He has built a very impressive layout in a small apartment bedroom. David is in the process of buying a house with a basement for his new railroad, and he will soon dismantle his current layout. He would like as many of us as can to see his current layout before the destruction begins.

We were totally amazed with his layout. David has achieved a level of detail and realism that is quite impressive. He has accomplished exactly what I envision as a future model railroad. He can sit and watch trains run around a loop, conduct switching sessions, or have an operation session as he sees fit. As soon as I got home, up to the attic I went, measuring the area reserved for my railroad—and guess what—the area closely matches a similar track plan arrangement.

Thanks David, I hope you can keep in-touch with us and share your railroading knowledge.

The premier issue of the NMRA Turntable has arrived on our computers and it is much more than expected. I was a bit skeptical about the idea of what types of videos would be available but after viewing a few you'll

be hooked. Give the TURNTABLE a try; I'm sure there is something you'll like.

We have also received the June 2017 issue of The Kingpin. At 37 pages, it is a massive document but full of information. A good way to see the inner workings of the Mid-Central Region is to read through the Board of Directors Meeting minutes and the individual Division reports.

In the July 2017 issue of Model Railroader, there was an article titled "*Keeping your Hobby Hoard Manageable.*" This is an article we all need to read and do some serious thinking about. We are all probably guilty of hoarding a lot of hobby materials. Just like the author of the article we may have things boxed up and put away that we don't even remember acquiring. At the July meeting let's share some ideas on how to get our hobby inventory to a manageable level.

ON A FINAL NOTE: At the July meeting we will be having our annual cook-out --Picnic on the Platform. We had a very good response at the June meeting when we passed around a list of items we needed for the meal but we are short on items for desserts. If a few members could bring something to fill this gap in our menu it would be appreciated.

HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Continued from page 1 sleepers and Viewliners without a problem. But this was turning into a problem.. As I worked my way into that upper berth I realized I was trapped; I was wedged and twisted and there came a point when I could not move at all. Nina was laughing and asking if she should call the conductor. I was laughing and told her she should call the ghost of Harry Houdini. Soon muscle cramps started preventing any movement at all and humor turned to concern. As it turned out, I was able to painfully and slowly extract myself without having to call the rescue squad. Needless to say we spent the rest of the night sharing the lower berth. Kind of tight but at least you could move a little. At any rate I didn't sleep late because we were running several hours late and I was able to enjoy Cajon Pass in morning light.. So, another tale of the rails; another tale of a wonderful marriage. May you be as blessed as I was

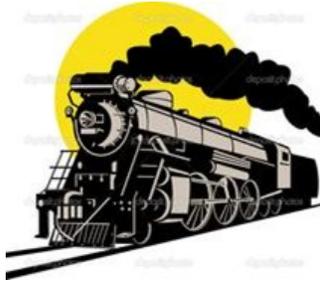
CLINICS

Bob Osburn, Clinic Chair

Paul Lapointe presented an excellent clinic "LED Layout Lighting" at the June meeting. Paul's use of displays and techniques was really informative. His clinic took a lot of the mystery out of using LED in our modeling projects. Thanks Paul!!

There is no clinic scheduled for the July meeting. Instead, in honor of Gary Burdette we will have our first MADD session (Models, Artifacts, Displays, and Discussion). Since we will be having the Picnic on the Platform we decided the July topic of MADD will be Railroad Dining. Please share your models of railroad dining cars, artifacts from dining cars, dining displays, or stories related to dining associated with railroading during the MADD session.

Ideas are needed for future clinics. If you would like to present a clinic or have ideas for one, please let me know.



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
"Picnic on the Platform"

Saturday July 8 2017

11:00 - Depot open

Set up and view MADD displays related to railroad dining cars, gather on platform

View contest entries, contest is structures

Buy raffle tickets, etc.

Socialize

12:30 - Lunch

1:00 - Social time.

2:00 - Superintendent's Briefing

2:30 - Raffle, Contest Results

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

August	July 24
September	August 28
October	October 2
November	October 30

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
Steel Is King

Dave Stout's Home
 Parkersburg, WV
 May 6, 2017 (cloudy 52°)

Corrected Minutes (future meeting dates are corrected here)

Meeting called to order by Assistant Superintendent Bob Osburn at 1:55 p.m.
 Members introduced themselves.

his MMR.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,147.17
 April minutes were approved.
 Pike Ads \$0.
 Raffle Revenue \$0.

Newsletter Chair

Bob Weinheimer welcomes any materials.

Clinic Chair

June will be LED layout lighting, July MADD, August is open.

Superintendent Report

Dan was unable to attend today's meeting.

Contest Chair

We had one entry in today's contest.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn, our new Assistant Superintendent, chaired today's meeting. He mentioned the MADD program which was near and dear to Gary Burdette's heart. The upcoming picnic was proposed for the July meeting. In lieu of a clinic we will have hands-on activities. The June clinic will be by Paul Lapointe on LED lighting for layouts. We have the joint meeting with Division 6 that is usually held in September in Portsmouth, Ohio at Mark Maynard's house. Bob is putting together a flyer on the Ohio-Erie Canal. The canal is located close to Mark's house. Bob mentioned that it's important to support our local hobby shops.

Membership Chair

No report.

Raffle

No raffle today.

Library Report

The library will be available in June at the depot.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bob Weinheimer moved that we provide approximately \$260 for convention expenses for Janie Burdette, motion carried unanimously.

The NMRA Digital Timetable project was mentioned. The purpose is to provide a clearing place for events and information related to model railroading. Bob mentioned that volunteer points might be involved. Paul Lapointe asked about the old national listing of layouts. Bob Weinheimer said it is in the process of being resurrected. Bob Osburn mentioned the recent column regarding the retention of new NMRA members. He suggested that we make an effort to welcome and acknowledge them and possibly provide them with a packet of information. Bob Weinheimer mentioned we currently we do receive a new member listing from the NMRA National that would be a good starting point for this effort. The current project for a discount program is directed at providing more value to members.

Announcements

Bob Weinheimer mentioned the very last Ringling Brothers circus train will be leaving Charleston Monday for New York.

Future Meetings

June 10 – St Albans Depot
July 8– St Albans Depot

Contest – Steel is King.

Meeting adjourned 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer again challenged Jerry Doyle to earn

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV

June 10 2017

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting were not approved as the dates noted needed to be amended.

Treasurer's Report – No report as clerk was absent.

Superintendent Report – Thanked the members for their condolences for Nina.

Region President Bob Weinheimer noted that future Region contest management will be a team effort rather than a lone contest manager.

Asst. Supt. Report – Discussed the July picnic and passed around a menu sheet for members to fill out. Suggested to use the MADD program to coordinate with the monthly contests. Challenged the members to enter the one square foot diorama display.

Newsletter Chair – No report

Clinic Chair – No report

Membership Chair – No report

Old Business – Bob Weinheimer passed out Golden Spike Award material to the members.

New Business – Discussed making up info cards for prospective members and bulletin boards. Dale was asked to look into this. It was also suggested to send invites for the picnic to the members that don't normally attend meetings to encourage more participation.

Next Meetings

July 8 – St. Albans – Picnic on the platform

August 12 – St. Albans

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Contest – Non Revenue Equipment

Clinic – LED strip lighting for your railroad by Paul Lapointe

Respectfully submitted by Bill Wadsworth, Acting Clerk

ALLEGHENY PLATEAU DIVISION CAR PROJECT

After years of talking about it, Division 11 is selling a Division Car.

Information about the car, photos of the car, and ordering information are on this division's web site at:

<http://www.div11-mcr-nmra.info/>

which has a link to:

http://www.div11-mcr-nmra.info/car_project.htm

Editor's note: I bought one of these cars at the convention in Louisville. It is marked for a 1968 built date and has no lube stencil meaning it can cover a wide range of years. If appropriate, you can add an ACI decal or a two or three panel lube stencil to make it fit your era. This car is headed for a Pennsylvania Southern unit coal train!

CONTEST

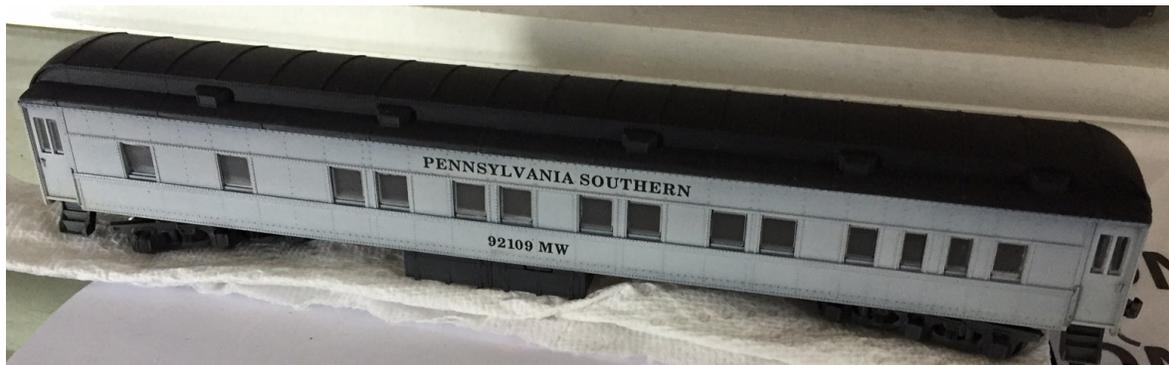
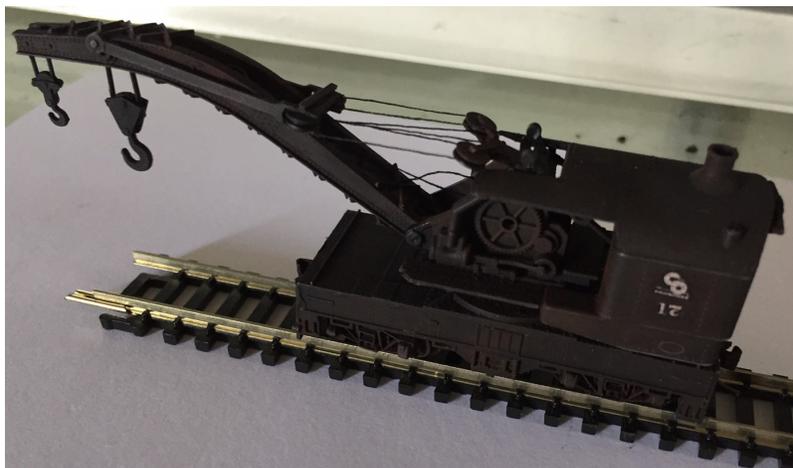
Photos by Bob Weinheimer

June's contest was Non Revenue Equipment. Caboosees were excepted this month as there will be another contest dedicated to cabooses.

Larry Richards won first place with his work gondola.
Bob Osburn took second place with his N scale crane kit.

Bob Weinheimer took third with an Athearn heavyweight Pullman used in work train service.

The July contest will be Structures: buildings, bridges, whatever.



NMRA MODEL RAILROAD DIRECTORY

The new NMRA Model Railroad Directory is now online and ready to use!

Now whether you are at home or traveling, you can contact other NMRA members for a layout tour, to talk trains, or even to join in an op session! There are maps, descriptions, photos, videos, and more. And it's only available to NMRA members.



Visit www.nmra.org then click on "Member Home" then "Model RR Directory" to see layouts in your area or to list your own layout (as long as it's an operating home or garden railroad. Join in the fun!

Yes, another editor's note: The Pennsylvania Southern is listed in this directory. Please remember that you must be an NMRA member to use the Directory and that you need to register to use the site if you have not done so already. Here's the link: www.nmra.org/members/layout-directory I tried to copy part of the site but the nice map with all the layout locations doesn't copy at all, you have to go there yourself to see it.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Well, there is still the bottom of this page and all of the next to fill. I'll do what I can, you may just see an NMRA ad on part of that next page.

Have you ever been to an RPM meet? What is an RPM meet? It stands for Railroad Prototype Modeler. These meets are popping up all over the country and often outdraw NMRA Regional conventions. The attendees tend to be a little younger than what we normally see at our conventions. What do they have that we don't?

In part to answer that I just returned from Collinsville, IL and the St. Louis RPM meet. This meet has been going on for about a dozen years and drew just over 500 attendees for the Friday and Saturday event. I'm not sure how many were Saturday only but the place was crowded Friday as well.

What did you get for the \$25 (yes, that's not a typo) registration fee paid at the door? There were four clinics each morning and each afternoon. The theme this year was freight cars and the clinics were outstanding. I made it through a true rivet counting session on PS-1 boxcars. The one I enjoyed the most was on freight car weathering. This clinic was presented by one of those celebrity modelers but this guy really does his own modeling: Michael Gross, the TV and film actor. His clinic was well prepared and well presented as you might expect from a performer. He was also very approachable and was really just one of the 500. He's a Santa Fe modeler.

If the clinics weren't enough, there were more models to look at that one can possibly imagine. Think of an NMRA contest on steroids. There were hundreds of models on display. What was missing was all that contest paperwork. Alas, very few models had anything with them to tell the viewer what had been done to it. I did see one car that was clearly an Athearn car, untouched mechanically, but painted and weathered absolutely beautifully. In some cases modelers had finished models on display as well one or two more that were far from finished. If you wondered if anything was done to the completed models, you just had to look at what was in progress to realize these were well done models. It would be nice for the modelers to sit there and answer questions but they also want to go to clinics, look at other models, and chat with friends.

If the clinics and models aren't enough, there are the vendors. They were carefully recruited and chosen. There was no used junk or anything of that sort. Tangent, ExactRail, Athearn, and others were there selling first rate stuff. There were a number of specialty parts dealers that I had not known of but they were well patronized by the model builders. I ended up buying more than I had intended. There was one dealer that had real bargains and on a dollar per pound basis got my business. It was the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library getting rid of duplications and stuff not appropri-

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7 ate for their collections. Paperbacks were \$1 and hard covers were \$2. My best deal was The Penn Central and Other Railroads: A Report to the Senate Committee on Commerce. This was prepared in December 1972 and presents something of a post mortem of the Penn Central bankruptcy. So far it's not bad reading. The volume, a paperback, is about letter size and over an inch thick, it weighs several pounds. I think it was a dollar well spent and Jerry Doyle is standing in line to see it when I've read it.

St. Louis was some distance, I put 1025 miles on the car over the weekend. A closer RPM meet is in Pittsburgh in the odd numbered years, it alternates with Philadelphia. I think there might be one in Marion, OH but it often conflicts with our Mid Central Region conventions. If this sounds interesting, check one out.

It looks like there is still quite a bit of white space left. Maybe it's time for an update on the Pennsylvania Southern. State Line Yard is in the midst of an expansion pro-

ject. The visible part that is complete is putting the existing yard on a 2% downgrade toward the garage. The trains in the yard are much easier to see, that should be an immediate improvement.

A hole has been punched through the wall and the garage portion of the yard is taking shape. I built the eleven turnouts that will be needed for the twelve track expansion. All are Fast Tracks and are now in place. I plan to flip the yard throat upside down to install the Tortoise switch motors and to do some of the wiring. Most connections, however, will be on the top making them easy to connect to the existing buses. Management still has to allocate the funds for the body of the yard tracks, they will consume much of a case of flex track. I still have a lot to do before I need that.

The next operating session is July 13, if you want to see the railroad you are welcome to come by but you don't get any refreshments unless you earn them by running a train.

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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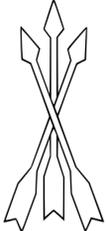
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY

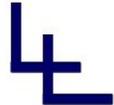


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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION
 Clint Foster Superintendent
 Roncovevte WV

Alleghany & New River Road
 An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America a few tons at a time



John Harris, Chief Engineer
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With Connections to the B&O, C&O, Western Maryland, West Virginia Northern

Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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.

**July 8
St. Albans Depot**

**August 12
St. Albans Depot**

**September 9
West Portsmouth, OH**