



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

August 2017



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

I sure hope everyone enjoyed the barbecue on the platform as much as I did. Thanks to all who contributed food and drink for the event. Special thanks to the Osburn cousins for taking on the cooking and a lot of the setting up. Also thanks go to those who helped clean up afterward. A real CSX diesel number board was a feature of the raffle and drew a lot of interest. We got to see three passing trains on CSX, a pleasure for sure. Since Hunter Harrison took the reins of CSX all the furloughed train crews working out of Hinton have been called back to work although he is laying off management people left and right. The other day in Bluefield there were three westbound empty hopper/coal gondola trains waiting to head out. There were also an eastbound and a westbound time freight changing crews. Pocahontas Division dispatcher Chris Dalton feels things are looking up, at least for now.

I like Bob Osburn's idea of a Company Store at our meetings. I have several pricier items such as brass locomotives which are too valuable to donate to the raffle. If the item is sold at the depot, ten percent of the sale price goes to the depot maintenance fund. If the item is sold at another venue, such as Parkersburg or Portsmouth, the ten percent goes to the Division general funds.

It would be nice to see more participation in the monthly contest. Don't be shy, bring your favorite project to display either in the contest or as a MADD display. Don't forget: if you have an item to be judged for the Achievement Program, bring it in prior to the meeting. If it is an immovable object, such as a layout, the judges are glad to make a road trip to you. Take a look at the requirements for the various AP certificates and look around, you may find some low hanging fruit which, with a little more work, or maybe just doing the paperwork, would get you a certificate.

As you read this I will be on the way to Orlando, FL. for the NMRA National Convention. This will be my fifth national. I can't wait to see what the manufacturers are cooking up at the National Train Show. Ahh, Florida in August, I sure do hope the air conditioners are working.

Next month's event will again be at the St. Albans depot on August 12th. In September we meet with Division 6 at Mark Maynard's home in Portsmouth, OH. Mark says if you can't stay after the meeting to run some trains on his layout; come early and get a little switching in.

From the Office Down the Hall

Bob Osburn

Picnic on the Platform

The 4th Annual Picnic on the Platform was a great success. Members consumed a large quantity of hamburgers and hot dogs along with great covered dishes, chips, and desserts. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the menu and to Dale Osburn for manning the grill.

M.A.D.D.

Models, Artifacts, Displays, and Discussions

The participation during the MADD program at the July meeting was great. Members displayed models and artifacts, but what were really interesting were the discussions of personal railroad dining car experiences.

The theme for MADD at the August meeting will be Freight Cars to coincide with the August contest. If you have models that you don't want to be entered into the contest but are interesting freight cars, please bring and display. Pictures of freight cars, freight car loads, or personal observations are encouraged.

Division 9 Company Store

During the July meeting, it was decided to have an area at the Depot where members could display items they wish to sell. Each item should have the seller's name and asking price. Stickers will be available at the Company Store table for marking items. Unsold items should be removed after the meeting. For each item sold, Division 9 will collect 10% of the selling price which will be applied to the cost of utilities at the Depot.

Square Foot Diorama Challenge

Larry Richards is finalizing the rules for the Square Foot Diorama Challenge which will be the contest for the December meeting. Basically, members will be provided a 12" x 12" piece of styrofoam to construct a scene of their choice. Information and materials will be available at the October meeting.

CLINICS

Bob Osburn, Clinic Chair

The scheduled Clinic for August will be on Railroad Freight Cars presented by Jerry Doyle. We all enjoy Jerry's clinics, his knowledge of the subject and professional presentations are great. If you have any railroad freight car models, pictures of freight car loads, or other related items please enter them into the August contest or the MADD Program.

No Clinic is scheduled for September but will find us

at Mark Maynard's "*Running the Crusty Road*" in Portsmouth, Ohio. The September Contest will be Railroad Photos and the MADD Program will highlight Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering Projects.

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

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As many of you have seen by now, Jim Zinzer's Business Car column in the August issue of the *NMRA Magazine* mentions Paul Lapointe's recent article on layout lighting. Congratulations to Paul for the recognition! This is at least the fourth time Up The Holler has been mentioned by Jim, in each case it was because one of our members wrote something for this newsletter. Who knows, perhaps Sam Delauter's article about Z scale might be next. If you have something you would like to share, perhaps a modeling tip or a more complete article, consider Up The Holler or even the *NMRA Magazine*.

This issue of Up The Holler is coming out a week early, the normal publication time would be next week while I'm in Orlando at the NMRA National Convention. Several of you know what such an event is like after attending the one in Cleveland in 2014. The next conven-

tion is in Kansas City in 2018. Start planning now as Kansas City is one of the true hotbeds of model railroad activity in the country.

Progress continues on the Pennsylvania Southern, the enlarged State Line Yard is taking shape. The existing yard has been dropped to a 2% down grade, this actually makes access to that yard easier. The roadbed for the new yard is in place. The turnouts are all built, installed, and controlled by Tortoises. The macros that control the turnouts are all written and they can be used to align routes. Wiring for panel controls is underway including power kill switches for each track as well as LEDs that indicate which track is lined. The yard tracks themselves are not yet in place. I am hoping to have the yard in service in time for my September operating session.



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Freight Cars”

Saturday August 12, 2017

1:00 - Depot open

Set up and view MADD displays related to freight cars

View contest entries, contest is freight cars.

Buy raffle tickets, etc.

Socialize

1:00 - Social time.

2:00 - Superintendent’s Briefing

2:30 - Raffle, Contest Results

2:45—Clinic: Freight Cars by Jerry Doyle

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

September	August 28
October	October 2
November	October 30
December	November 27
January	December 29

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Photos by Jerry Doyle

At long last we were able to present Tom Harris with his first two (hopefully of many) Achievement Program certificates. These represent the lowest hanging fruit for Tom, Model Railroad Author and Master Builder Scenery. I have been encouraging Tom to work on some others, if you have ever visited his layout you know it is the work of a master.

At the last couple of meetings we have taken a look at the requirements for various Achievement Program items. In June we talked about the Golden Spike Award and

several members took copies of the form. In Dan Mulhearn's column he suggest bringing items to the meeting for evaluation and that's just what Sam Delauter did. He brought an entire (OK, it was small) N scale layout! We went through the form and checked off the boxes. I signed it and sent to Frank Koch. David Oliverio is also pursuing the Golden Spike Award. If any more of you are doing so, please let me know so we can review and approve it.



Tom with his Achievement Program certificates.

Sam's N scale Interstate Railroad layout. This was big enough and sufficiently developed to easily qualify for the Golden Spike Award.



NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

St Albans Depot

St Albans, WV

July 8, 2017

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Dan Mulhearn at 1:55 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,141.17
Corrected May and June minutes were approved.
Pike Ads \$0.
Raffle Revenue \$94.

Superintendent Report

Dan thanked Bob Osburn for filling in recently. He thanked everyone for coming and especially to Dale Osburn, today's chef.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn noted the good turnout of at least 20 members. The C&O Historical Society will be having their convention in Huntington in early August and St Albans will be the first stop on their tour. Bob would like the Division to have a work session to have the depot open for their visit. Our meeting for September will be in Portsmouth at Mark Maynard's home. There was discussion if this would be a joint meeting with Division 6. Dan Mulhearn had correspondence indicating it will be.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer presented Tom Harris his certificates for Railroad Author and Scenery. He also went over the basics for obtaining the Electrical Engineer certificate.

Newsletter Chair

The deadline is a week early due to Bob's attendance at the national convention. Sam Delauter will have an article on modeling in Z Scale in the next issue.

Clinic Chair

This month was MADD about dining cars and our picnic. Next month's will be Freight Cars by Jerry Doyle.

Contest Chair

The September contest will be photographs.

Membership Chair

John Harris had a brief report. He mentioned a potential member moving to the Bluefield area from Florida. Sam Delauter mentioned our newest member Greg Barker. Tom Harris introduced visitors Cory Claxon and Blake Frame.

Raffle

Several items for raffle today netted \$94.

Library Report

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bob Osburn brought up the idea of a country store for the Division. The store would be a clearing house for our excess models. It would work like the flea market table at the September meeting. An additional suggestion of having a for-sale section in *Up the Holler*. The proceeds (10% of the sale price) from the sales at the depot will go to offset the costs of the depot.

David Oliverio will be vacating his current residence and his layout needs a good home.

Dale Osburn mentioned having business cards for members to be used for recruiting.

Jerry Doyle mentioned the upcoming St Albans railroad show. The depot will be open during the show and members will be needed to man it.

John Harris noted the Division's Facebook page and how effective it was.

Announcements

Mark Maynard reminded everyone that his layout will be open at 8 a.m. for operations the day of the September meeting.

Future Meetings

August 12 – St Albans Depot
September 9 – Mark Maynard's Portsmouth, Ohio
October 14 – St Albans Depot
November 11 – Bluefield, WV Railroad Show
December 9 – St Albans Depot

Contest – Structures

Meeting adjourned 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Photos by Bob Weinheimer

July's contest was Structures. Dale Osburn took first place with Lou's Cigar Shop and Sam Delauter took second place with his N scale tower Larry Richards brought a

wonderful model for display, this model has won several awards at conventions.

The August contest will be freight cars.



Above is Dale's cigar store and to the right is Sam's tower



Above is Larry's model "A. R. Gilmore Grain Feed Seed". To the right is the inside of the second floor apartment that was removed to be photographed.

Sam's Z Scale CornerZ Scale Locos and Rolling Stock

Sam Delauter

As many of you know I don't only model N scale but also model Z scale but to a lesser extent. When I decided to start modeling Z scale, I wanted to model the 1940s/1950s Pennsylvania Railroad. I have always had an interest in the anthracite roads and that is what I have always modeled.

A few years ago, I saw a video on YouTube of a Z scale layout. Unlike what I had always heard about Z Scale, it ran well and was highly detailed. I was intrigued by the possibility of a scale smaller than N scale that would run well.

I decided to buy a little bit of Z scale to test it out. I started with a F7 AB pair, tank cars, and track all made by Micro Trains. I went with a Rokuhan controller. My pair of F7s did run but they did not run well. The controller had to be up the whole way to get them to move. After some research on the forums online, I found that they would have to be remotored if they were to run as well as other scales.

During my research about the F units, I found a company called American Z Line. They have a large selection of locomotives and rolling stock. Their product costs about twice what the offerings from Micro Trains do. After I saved a little money I ordered one of their Mikados. It cost me about what both of the F units did but it was well worth it as it ran very well out of the box. They also have an extensive break in period in the factory for all of their locos.

The quality of Z scale has come quite a long way since the original offerings of the 1970s. As Z gets better there are even more new models coming out all the time. Gone are the days of having only one or two types of locos to choose from. I thought I would take a little bit of time to talk about each of the major manufacturers, what they offer, and my experience with each of them.

I don't have a lot of experience with Marklin in Z Scale since most of their products are of European prototype. However, a couple of years ago, they released an E8 in coordination with American Z Line. Marklin is the company that started Z scale under their mini club line. Although I have never owned any of the locos, some of the rolling stock looks pretty good. Some of it is showing its age in aspects of detailing and quality of looking like a model of a certain train.

Much like Marklin, I don't much experience with Rokuhan. All of their products that I have seen have been of Japanese prototype. I have read that their product is nice but have never had it in hand.

Intermountain does not make a lot of Z scale but what they do make is very nice. I have five of their cylindrical hoppers and they are the best running of any of my rolling stock. They recently announced a modern reefer. If it is as nice as their other releases then it will be very

well accepted.

Full Throttle used to go by the name Pennzee. I am not sure of the connection or if it was just a name change. They make some very nice hoppers and wood chip hoppers of different varieties and just released a 34' reefer. Their hoppers are very nice and typically come with Hay Brothers loads.

Micro Trains is another long-time producer of Z scale. They picked up the Z scale line sometime in the 1970s. Micro Trains produces a lot of different Z scale rolling stock models in many body styles. I counted 30 styles if you include the different door options on the box-cars. This year they will be adding a business car to their passenger car releases. Also, like in many other scales, they produce multipacks with multiple numbers. In addition, this year we will see the return of the SD40-2. Other past locos have been the GP9 and the GP35. They have been steadily releasing the F units for years now. Although they do make some nice products, I have had some issues with them. As mentioned above my F units ran poorly. I have also replaced the plastic wheels on their rolling stock. They seem to be the only manufacturer selling plastic wheels on their rolling stock. Otherwise their products seem to be good. I like seeing the weathered releases, they are the only manufacturer selling weathered rolling stock in Z scale.

The other large manufacturer of American prototype Z scale locos and rolling stock is American Z Line. AZL is formally Rogue Loco Works. Rogue made some nice running and nicely detailed brass locos and AZL has kept releases coming every couple of years. Unlike Rogue which mainly made brass, AZL is mainly releasing in plastic. AZL has been busy over the last 10 years releasing lots of different rolling stock, they have done 24 different freight car bodies. For the passenger car fleet, they have released a heavyweight passenger car series, several variations of the modern Amtrak fleet, and a modern commuter car series. They have also been releasing quite the selection of locos. AZL has the Mikado, RDC, GP7, GP9, GP30, GP38-2, SD45, SD70/70-2/75/75i/ACE, F3, E8, and most recently the P42 and ES44 Gevo. These have all been DCC ready. The bulk of rolling stock and locos that I own are AZL. I have been very happy with the quality both in details and in how well they run. The SD70ACE and Gevo have both come with working ditch lights.

Although the manufacturers are releasing new rolling stock and locos all the time, there is still a lot that hasn't been made. If you want to model pre-1950s steam with no diesels then you will be hard pressed to do that with just a Mikado. It is also challenging as American Z Line seems to release mostly modern locos and rolling stock while Micro Trains seems to release mostly 1950s and 1960s era trains. However, if you want

Continued next page

Continued from previous page a nice layout in a small space,
Z scale may be the way to go.

As long as you stick with at least a 8.66" radius you can have a highly detailed and nicely running layout with Mikados, GP7s, or modern SD70 and Gevos.

Below are the links to American Z Line, Micro Trains Z Scale pages, Z Scale Monster, and Z Scale Hobo. Z scale Monster and Z Scale Hobo are both great places to browse and buy Z scale trains.

<http://www.americanzline.com>

<https://www.micro-trains.com/index.php?route=z-scale>

<http://www.zscalemonster.com/z.htm>

<http://zscalehobo.com>

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!

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!)



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.



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NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President

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CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President

Barboursville, WV



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Tony Puccini, President

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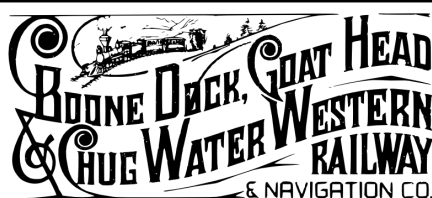
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NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendent
Ronceverte WV

Alleghany & New River Road
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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



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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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