



# UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9  
**THE COAL DIVISION**  
MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC  
October 2018



## DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent  
Dan Mulhearn  
304-466-9188  
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent  
Robert Osburn  
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  
Vacant

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

Membership  
John Harris  
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle  
Tom Harris  
raffle@coaldivision.org

T-Trak  
Sam Delauter  
samdelauter@gmail.com  
304-377-1136

## DIVISION STAFF

Editor  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster  
Bob Weinheimer MMR  
webmaster@coaldivision.org

## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

### Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

It seems not all that long ago that we saw Gary Burdette's smile and heard him say he never met a train he didn't like. That probably holds true for a lot of us. Prototype, models, it's all the same: it is a fascination for all of us. There is so much enjoyment to be gained from our hobby. It doesn't matter if you enjoy building models, if your forte is operating in a prototypical manner, or you just enjoy collecting. Yes, trains are our focus, but to me there is much more than that. It is the people in this hobby. When I lived on Long Island I was not an NMRA member, but over the years many friends were made through the hobby. Since joining the NMRA in 2005 that field of friends has vastly expanded, not just in our Division, but in the Region and Nationally. I am fortunate to be a regular operator on three HO railroads which are operated in a prototype manner. Of course there is Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern where I get to fill different positions. Then there is Tom Harris' Lakeside Lines where I regularly hold down CJ tower, shepherding the through trains and the locals over the railroad by setting and dropping the signals and turnouts. Last but not least is Bob Burke's Sandy Creek and Southern where I have seniority to stand for the east end yard job at Bedford, VA. That keeps one busy for the entire session. Pickups are prepared for through trains as well as making up local turns. Meanwhile the west end switches drops from through trains and sorts out arriving local freights.

At all of these layouts, and others I have been privileged to operate on, it is the people we get to know. They are interesting, knowledgeable, and a joy to be around. It must be said that belonging to the NMRA has been a beneficial experience and a personal joy. To bring it closer to home, take our Division. The level of enthusiasm of the members, the hard work of the committee chairs, the newsletter editor, and the support of the general membership makes it a great experience to be associated with the Division. There is always something to learn. The level of support for the T-Trak group is a boon to the group. I said at the Division event at Portsmouth that due to health and personal issues I had, in the words of the bluegrass song, enough steam to blow the whistle but not enough to pull the train. The solution to that malaise is found in the overall enjoyment and participation of our members. Model Railroading is, indeed, fun.

I mentioned Portsmouth and we must all thank Mark Maynard for his and his cohorts' hospitality. It looks like the dispatch center will soon be moving to the former tree house. The scenery continues to grow, the electronics are outstanding. Overall it's a great model railroad. Thanks again, Mark and company. Thanks also to the members of Division 6 who braved the weather and joined us for the day.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

### Bob Osburn, Assistant Superintendent

At the August meeting the Division approved the creation of a committee to oversee our interest in the St Albans Depot and to lend a hand when help was needed. Jerry Doyle agreed to chair the committee and several members agreed to serve on the committee. The group's first action was taken on September 21<sup>st</sup> when we met at the depot and started a rigorous clean-up and repair campaign. After a full day of work, our efforts really paid off. In addition to making the main waiting area presentable for meetings, some needed repairs and restoration projects were completed. While we were there, several representatives from the city stopped by which led to the hanging of the large sign on the front of the building. Other concerns were also conveyed such as the need for a handicap ramp, furnace issues, plumbing issues, and installation of outdoor lighting. City workers have these projects on their list when time permits. The next scheduled activity for committee is a clean-up project October 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join us and give a hand, I know Jerry and the other committee members would appreciate your efforts.

Larry Richards wants to let everyone know that the 2018 Square Foot Challenge packets will start to be distributed at the October meeting. This year the theme will

be a station, again printed on card stock along with a square foot of styrofoam. At last count, eight members had signed-up for packets. A few more packets remain if you would like to participate. The finished projects will be the subject for our December clinic.

As summer turns into fall I find myself in an unusual position—some time for modeling. I recently completely retired from my position, got my mother settled in a retirement village, readied her house for sale, and finished 95% of my attic/railroad room remodel. Yes, I have a few more projects to complete around the house, but they are not pressing. Now I can get up in the mornings and not have to go to work—instead retreat to the basement and work on modeling projects. What a great feeling!

I have begun to really enjoy my T-Trak projects. I find working on a small module that is not overwhelming gives me a sense of something that I can actually finish in a reasonable time frame. It also gives me a chance to venture into areas that don't fit into the era of my permanent railroad; a McDonald's or Walmart is not out of the question now. If you haven't given the T-Trak group consideration, you may be missing a very relaxing and enjoyable pastime.

## UPCOMING CLINICS

### Bob Osburn, Clinic Manager

There was not a clinic or formal MADD session at the September meeting at Mark Maynard's, but remember the MADD session is a time for us to discuss, display, ask questions, and solve modeling problems anytime we meet.

A clinic on installing Tortoise switch machines is being organized for October. This will be a group of mini-clinics presented by Mark Maynard and Tom Harris, showing different techniques and methods. Since the

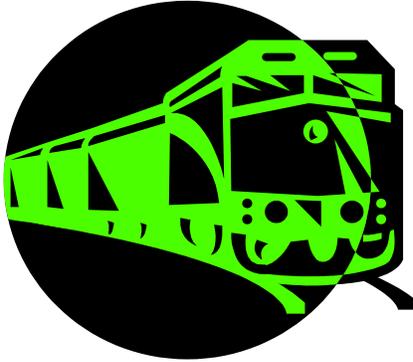
Tortoise machine is probably the most popular, many of us using these devices should learn some interesting techniques and tips from the presenters.

The Company Store will be open for the October meeting. If you have something to sell, please bring and add to the collection. Stickers will be available to mark your item with name and asking price—10% of a sale will go into the division coffers.

## MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST

### 2018 SCHEDULE

|          |                              |           |   |
|----------|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| January  | Modeler's Choice             | August    | Freight Cars  |
| February | Steam Locomotives            | September | Photo, Model or Prototype   |
| March    | Locomotives Other Than Steam | October   | Open Loads (flats, gondolas, hoppers)                                   |
| April    | Cabooses                     | November  | Passenger Cars  |
| May      | Anything Steel Related       | December  | Second Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Challenge. Details and kick off in |
| June     | Non Revenue Except Cabooses  |           | October   |
| July     | Structures                   |           |   |



**Coal Division**  
**Monthly Railfun Event**  
*Installing Tortoises*

***Saturday October 13, 2017***

1:00 - Depot open

Set up and view MADD displays

View contest entries, contest is Open

Loads.

Buy raffle tickets, etc.

Socialize

2:00 - Superintendent's Briefing

2:30 - Mini clinics on the installation of Tortoise  
switch machines

3:30 - Raffle, Contest Results

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

Mark Maynard's Home  
West Portsmouth, OH  
Joint meeting with Division 6  
September 8, 2018  
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Dan Mulhearn at 1:35 p.m.

November – No Clinic  
December – Square Foot Challenge

### Division Clerk Report

August Minutes approved  
Treasury Balance is \$8,570.35  
Pike Ads \$0  
Raffle Revenue \$0 No Raffle Today  
Company Store Revenue \$15

### Librarian

No report.

### Raffle

Tom reminded everyone that the raffle supports the St Albans Depot.

### Superintendent Report

Dan thanked Mark Maynard and crew for hosting the meeting today. He noted the enthusiasm and good attendance for today's meeting.

### Old Business

None.

### New Business

Mark Maynard thanked everyone for coming to the meeting today. The Fall picnic has been a Division 9 tradition for over a decade.

### Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn reported on the Morehead Kentucky train show. Several members took T-Track modules.

### Announcements

Great Berea Train Show October 6, 7 Middleburg Heights, OH.  
The Bluefield Show is on for this year. It will be held in the second week of November.  
Sixty-First Annual Huntington Model Railroad Show November 23 – 25.

### Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer thanked Sam Delauter for his recent contributions. We have not hit a limit on pages for the online version.

### Future Meetings:

October 13 – St Albans Depot  
November – Bluefield Train Show

### Achievement Program

No word on Dale Osburn's Golden Spike.

### Membership

No report.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.

### Contest

Today's contest is Photo

Respectfully submitted,

### Clinic

October – Mounting Tortoise Switch Machines

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

## 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

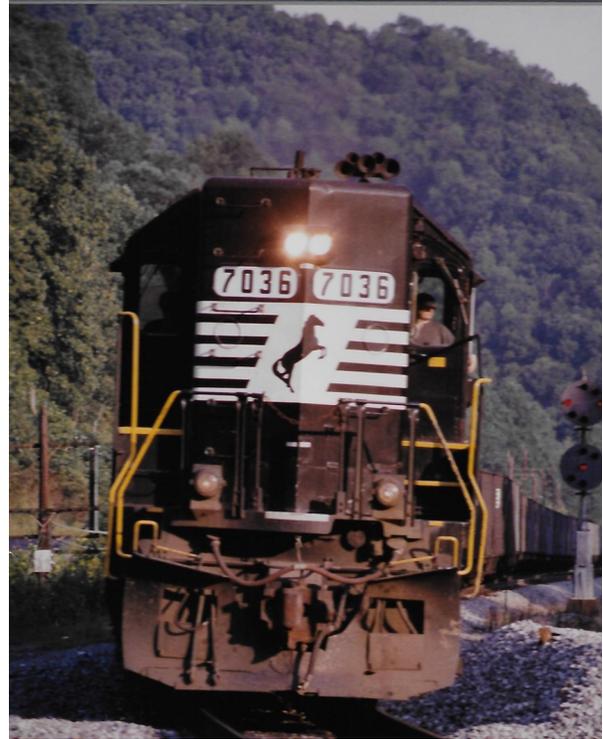
|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| November | October 29  |
| December | November 26 |
| January  | December 31 |
| February | January 28  |

## CONTEST

### Photos by the Modelers

In the September contest, we had three members who participated and we had lots of ties. Winners are noted in the captions.

The October contest is Open Loads for cars such as flat cars, gondolas, and hoppers.



There was a tie for first place. To the left the CSX engine is in a train on Tom Harris' Lakeside Lines. Above, the NS engine was shot by Herb Parsons near Naugatuck, WV.

Herb Parsons took second place with these Western Maryland diesels crossing the High Bridge, that is what the WM called the bridge because of the elevation.

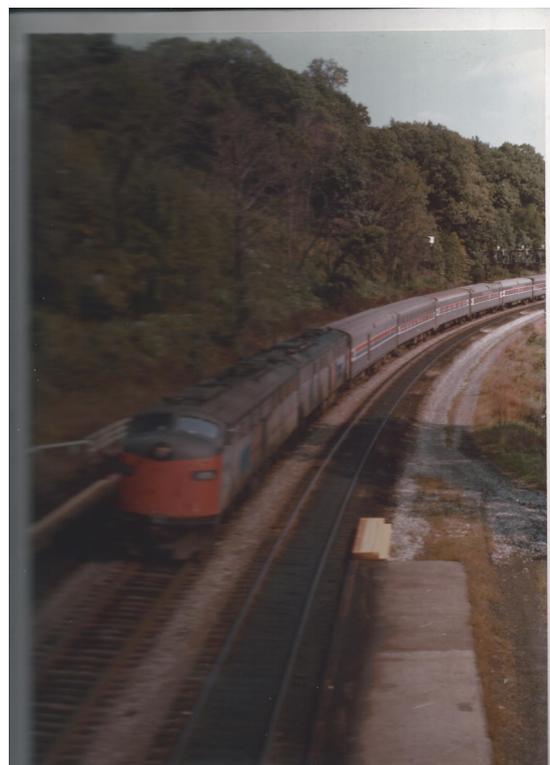




Third place was a tie between Tom Harris with his photograph of NCDOT 1755 as seen on his Lakeside Lines layout and Dan Mulhearn's Amtrak photograph described in the other caption.

Dan Mulhearn's photo at right predates digital photography. He was prepared to scan it but ran into technical issues. It really looks better that this would suggest.

Amtrak E9A 426 is on the east-bound Lake Shore Limited at Crugers, NY in the 1970s. At this time, the train was still terminating at Grand Central Station so it would have changed to an electric locomotive at Harmon, NY. 426 is ex Union Pacific 948 and was retired in July 1981.



## MY WORD

### Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Once again we had a great time at our September event at Mark Maynard's home in Portsmouth, OH. The weather was threatening but rain held off for most of the time we were there. About the time some of us were ready to leave the heavens opened up but we got out from under the rain clouds after a very few miles and had dry roads most of the way home.

Mark and his family have a brand new home on their property. The portion of the property that once held the old house will soon become the location of a Dollar General store. Unaffected are the barn and the layout.

Mark has made progress on scenery and is about ready to have it evaluated for the Achievement Program. As Dan noted, the old tree house is in the process of becoming the dispatcher's office. Mark even has a couple of poles for carrying the wires between the office and the layout.

T-Trak keeps moving right along. I was at the Division 10 Train Day at the Library in Lexington on September 15. I took my modules as well as Sam Delauter's quadruple module. The layout worked pretty well although we did see a couple of small issues. The event was attended by approximately 300 children and a like number of adults. The table arrangement kept most hands at a distance but some enterprising kids managed to grab a thing or two. In addition to the T-Trak display there was

an HO scale layout that the kids could operate as well as an O scale that let them do a little bit of switching.

The real beauty of T-Trak is the easy assembly and tear down. The show ended at 4 and by 4:15 I had the modules in the car and was heading out of the parking lot.

Keep in mind that the Kanawha Valley Railroad Club show is scheduled for February 23 and 24. It would be great to have all of the Coal Division modules finished and ready for use at that event. My modules just have track but that track has been painted recently so there is some progress. I have a structure to build and scenery to create. We're still working out some of the details for scenery requirements that will make the modules, even with different themes, blend together without any jarring transitions. Sam is still working on those details.

It's not too soon to start thinking about the next Mid Central Region convention. Mark your calendars for May 2 through 5 in Boardman, Ohio. Where, you might ask is Boardman? It's a suburb of Youngstown, just to the south. While Youngstown may be thought of as the Rust Belt, preservation of their heritage is seen with institutions such as the Youngstown Steel Heritage Museum. If you have any interest in steel mills, this convention should offer great opportunities to learn more about that industry.



The photo above shows some of the crowd at the September Train Day at the Library in Lexington, KY. Note the T-Trak layout. Normally two modules back to back can be placed on one table. Here we see them on two tables offering something of a safety zone for grabbers.

To the right is an HO scale layout that children could run. The maximum speed had been dialed back to keep things from getting too wild.



## Sam's Z Scale Corner

### Railfanning the Former Erie, a One Square Foot Z scale Diorama

#### Sam Delauter

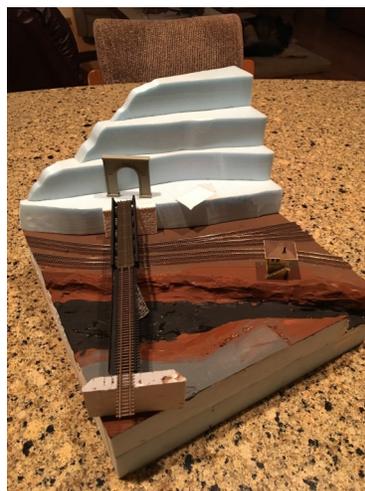
Imagine that you are on vacation. Due to scheduling there was no time for railfanning. All that changes when one night there is a very hard rain that cancels your plans for the day. Luckily you took your camera. You ask someone in the little town where you are staying if there are any good locations to see trains. They direct you to a location but didn't know anything about the railroads that are in the area. The scene depicted in this diorama is what I envisioned that location to look like.

That said, I have been planning to write this article for a long time. It always seems like I have a ton of projects going on that take up most of my spare time. I thought I would take some time and talk about the techniques that I used to build my one foot diorama in Z scale.

To start building the diorama, I had to figure out where everything would go. I spent some time playing around with track placement and the location of the landforms. After several versions, I had a plan. First came the riverbed. When I make a river, I tend to make it a bit wider than I intend. I cut a piece of foam into two pieces and then glued both pieces to the one foot piece of foam that would become the base to the diorama. I then shaped the river using watered down joint compound. This allowed me to get the exact shape and contours that I wanted.

Next was to get the shape of the mountain in place. I have been using the same method to make mountains for quite a while now. I have used it on two layouts prior to this diorama and have been happy with the results. My method is to cut foam for the mountain and stagger it in tiers as seen in one of the pictures. After that is glued, I pin

rolled up pieces of newspaper in the gaps. This gives a nice rolling and uneven look to the ground once covered with plaster cloth. Once the plaster cloth is applied and dry, I lightly cover it with the same joint compound that I used on the river.



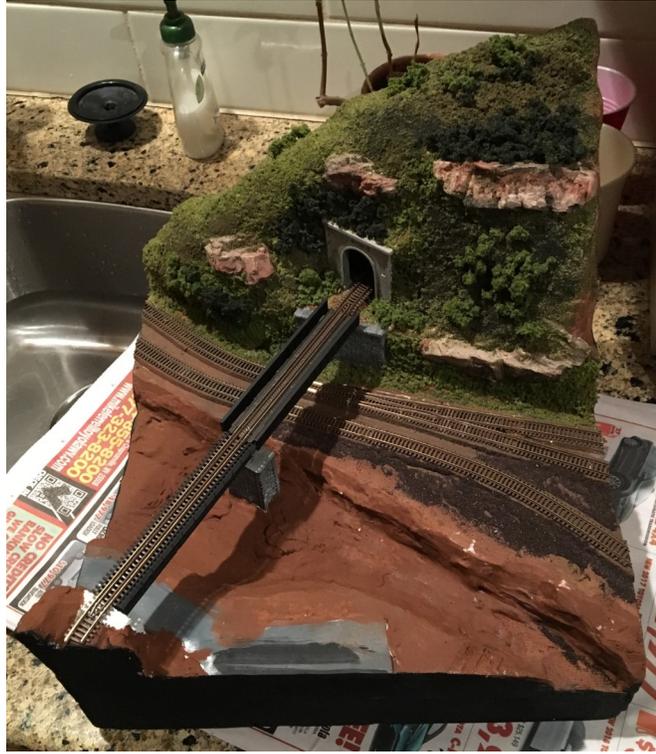
Once the land forms were to my liking, the entire diorama was painted. For the land, I use a shade of cinnamon brown from the hobby shop. It's my go to undercoat before ground foam is applied. It would be a good while before I would pour the river, so I painted the entire riverbed. The riverbed didn't need a lot of painting since I add paint to the resin before it gets poured, but the paint I used in the river bed was a mix of Valejo and hobby acrylic paints. When the paint was dry, I laid the track for the lower line. The next step was to add the structures and the upper line. I spent some time experimenting with placing the bridge piers, bridge abutments, and tunnel portal. After this was done, there was some more contouring of the land. I should add that the abutments and bridge piers were a mix of Z and N scale pieces. There was some modification required, mainly to get the two different levels for

the pier in the middle of the river to match. I laid the track for the upper line in place to help get the line uniformly level.

At this point, it was time to start covering the diorama with ground foam, adding trees and buildings, and such. I used my typical mix of five to fifteen different brands, colors, and grades of ground cover. I make a custom mix each time to get the look I want. After all of the ground cover was dry, I ballasted the track. The upper line wasn't added until this point to allow access to do scenery.

Once all of this was done, all I had left was to pour the river. I sealed the ends of the river with hot glue and spare foam. This allows me to pour the river as deep as I want without having to worry about leaks. I've found that foam and hot glue is easy to remove after the river is dry. Before I poured the river, I mixed in some paint to give it the look of a deep, murky river, just after a heavy rain. Once the river is actually poured, the plaster will make sure that all of the seams are sealed. If not the resin will go through the holes and gaps. If you're unlucky this will mean that you will have resin on your table or floor (editor's note – add cardboard or something to catch resin drip under the river before you pour).

Other than working in a smaller scale, I didn't do anything different than I normally do in N scale. I really enjoyed the square foot challenge and look forward to doing this again this fall.



# 61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

Big Sandy Superstore Arena  
One Civic Center Plaza Huntington, WV 25701  
(Third Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street East)

**THANKSGIVING WEEKEND**

**November 23, 24 & 25, 2018**



Friday ..... 5pm – 9pm  
Saturday.....10am – 8pm  
Sunday ..... Noon till 4:30pm

Model Railroads – Hobby Shops  
Memorabilia Sales – Railroad Books  
New and Used Model Train Equipment

**Adults \$6.00    Children Under 12 \$1.00**



**Special Guest - Santa**  
(Bring your camera)

Friday ..... 6pm – 8pm  
Saturday..... 10 am – 8pm  
Sunday ..... Noon till 4pm

Sponsored by the Appalachian Model Railroad Society  
P.O. Box 764 Ceredo, West Virginia 25507  
Phone: (304) 429-1432 or (304) 360-9857



**Midland Atlantic**  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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



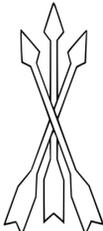
**CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.**

**Mark Maynard, President**  
 Portsmouth, OH



**CRESCENT VALLEY**

Jerry Doyle, President  
 Barboursville, WV

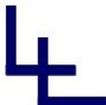


**THREE ARROWS RAILROAD**

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

**PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN**

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




**LAKESIDE LINES RAILROAD**  
**Thomas K. Harris, President and CEO**

274 S. Wye Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382 (276)620-3493  
 tharris@va.net www.lakesidelines.com



**Ed Keith, MMR**  
 Assistant Superintendent  
 Chesapeake, OH



**SHAMOKIN DIVISION**  
 DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN  
 SUMMERSVILLE, WV  
 304-872-7262



**HINTON DIVISION**  
**Gary Burdette - Superintendent**  
 Point Pleasant WV



**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY THOMAS SUBDIVISION**  
**RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT**  
 RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



**NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION**  
 Clint Foster Superintendent  
 Ronceverte 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**  
 AandNRR@aol.com

**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

If you received this news-  
letter 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](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)  
to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up The  
Holler.

## Upcoming Coal Division Events

**October 13**  
**St. Albans Depot**

**November 10**  
**Location To Be Determined**

**December 8**  
**St. Albans Depot**

**January 12, 2019**  
**St. Albans Depot**