



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

May 2024

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying this spring weather. It appears that summer is not far off. I hope everyone is able to get some modeling done despite the nice weather.

At the April meeting, we had a great Mini Clinic Event. Tony Puccini, Bob Weinheimer, and Randy Allio gave great mini clinics that we all learned a lot from. The great thing about the Mini Clinic Event is you get to learn a lot about several topics in a very small timeframe.

By the time that you read this article, the KVRA Train and Craft Show, May 4th and 5th, will be just a few days away. We will be doing more this year than we did in the past and will need as much help as we can get. We will have the Division's T-TRAK, the NMRA booth, and a book sale. Unlike past years, we have reserved tables to have a book sale at the show. The books were from Ed Keith's estate and Robert Osburn has been gracious enough to offer the proceeds to the Division to fund our yearly challenge. This will pay for most, if not all, of what we need to put on that event. This year all of our displays will be together to help us manage them better. If you have any time that weekend, it would be greatly appreciated. I hope to see you at the show.

The following Saturday, May 11, will be our monthly meeting at 1:00 PM. Unfortunately we will be unable to meet in Parkersburg for Steel Is King. While it is sad that we will not be able to make our yearly trip north, this does leave room for a new event. Instead we will meet at the Gallipolis Freight Station Museum in Gallipolis, OH in the former Gallipolis freight house. The freight house was recently renovated and the group involved has put in a lot of work to make it available to visitors. Among the many relics the museum hosts there is a small steam locomotive and some rolling in addition to a large operating layout. Also, after the meeting the Grafton and Greenbrier will be open to visitors. Please take advantage of this opportunity to visit the G&G as this may very well be the last chance to see it in its current state. Also at the meeting the contest will be anything steel related.

Anytime that we have a meeting away from our home base of St. Albans, WV, we have a great opportunity to get to know our fellow division members better. These meetings are a great chance to travel together and I would strongly suggest you do so. The meeting starts at 1:00PM. Make sure to come early to be able to see all there is to see at the Gallipolis Freight Station Museum. I hope to see you all in Gallipolis on May 11th.

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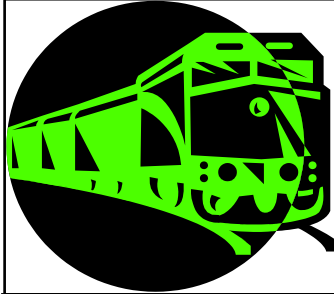
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DIVISION STAFF

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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday May 11

Steel is King

Gallipolis Freight Station Museum

918 Third Avenue, Gallipolis, Ohio

Division Membership Meeting

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Anything Steel Related**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Post Meeting: Visit the Grafton and Greenbrier**

**Next Meeting
June 8**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION

April 13 2024
St. Albans, WV
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Robert Osburn at 1:00 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

February minutes approved.
Treasury Balance is \$8,988.50.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$40.
Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Robert noted the good turnout for today's meeting. He noted that today's meeting would be his last as Superintendent. He has enjoyed this time as super and has made some very good friends. He thanked members for their encouragement and support.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam mentioned this would be his last meeting as Assistant Superintendent as he will be stepping up to the role of Superintendent.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of April 29 for the next newsletter. The address for contributions is edi-tor@coaldivision.org. As discussed earlier there will not be an August issue but Bob will try to get as much information as possible in the July issue.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer presented Don Cipolla with AP certificates for Rolling Stock and Prototype Scene and most significantly, the certificate for Master Model Railroader. Don is MMR #760. He will receive a plaque at the MCR convention next month.

Library

Bill Wadsworth nothing new to report.

Clinic

We had three mini clinics. Bob Weinheimer car forwarding system using Excel, Tony Puccini N Scale apple trees, and Randy Allio upgrading Woodland Scenics trees.

Contest

Today's contest is Kitbash/Scratchbuildt Don mentioned there were eight entries today.

Membership

No report. Robert Osburn passed around a sign-up sheet for the KVRA Charleston show. We have several activities planned for the show. He also updated everyone on fundraising for this year's Modeling Challenge which will be T-Track modules. We have ordered ten modules so far.

Raffle

Tony Puccini told members about today's raffle offerings.

T TRAK

Herb Parsons mentioned that the C&OHS would not be at the KVRA Charleston show on Saturday. He also showed the official module specifications from N Rail. They can be found at <https://www.ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Home>.

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Jerry Doyle updated everyone on the May 11 meeting at the Gallipolis Freight Depot Museum located at 918 Third Avenue in Gallipolis, Ohio. More information is available on their website <https://gallipolisrailroad.org/>

Bill Stowe asked about providing more detailed information on the Achievement Program guidelines. Bob Weinheimer suggested he repeat his clinic on what's involved in getting a model judged.

Robert Osburn made a motion that we move our July meeting to Randy Alio's house in Big Chimney, WV. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Weinheimer mentioned a new opportunity with Grouper for members over 65 who have a Medicare advantage plan. If covered by the plan, Grouper will reimburse the annual NMRA membership fee.

Announcements

Beckley Show April 19-21
MCR convention May 16-19

Future Meetings:

May 11 – Gallipolis, OH Gallipolis Freight Depot Museum
June 8 – St Albans Historical Society
July 13 – Randy Alio's house Big Chimney, WV.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

During the last meeting I raised the question of should we tie reviewing the NMRA Achievement Program requirements with the contest. My thought was to raise awareness of how close people may be to meeting the requirements for a particular certificate. On the other hand, if it would discourage people from bringing items in, then it would be absolutely the wrong thing to do.

My question was partly due to my ignorance of the Achievement Program (something I plan to fix) but I was also trying to think about how we talk about our group to newcomers and prospective members.

We often talk about our group about having amazing breadth and depth for our small size, which I totally agree with. But how do you begin to describe that to someone unfamiliar with the group? For all our small size, trying to capture all that we bring to the wide world of model railroading, prototyping, operations, railfanning, railroad history, etc. is very challenging.

So my thought was to talk to the Master Model Railroaders® in our group. Does that mean that is the sole definition of knowledge and skills: ABSOLUTELY NOT!

But it does give a simple recognized way of talking to it. And with total number of Master Model Railroaders®

less than 800 for a program which started in 1961, and many less than that who are currently active, to be able to say that in our small group we have two with two more close says a lot. That is due in a large part to Bob Weinheimer's leadership and persistence.

Another simple way to look at it is the years spent on model railroading and associated topics. If you think our group averages 20 to 30 years of experience, at a typical meeting of 15 to 20 folks one has 400 to 500 years of model railroading to leverage.

Whatever measure one wants to look at I would simply say our monthly meetings are an environment of folks passionate in all aspects of railroading, who are willing without reservation to share their knowledge and experience through socialization, bringing their own projects in to 'show and tell', and educational clinics. Sam Delauter and others are working on the improving the hybrid operation of our meetings but in my opinion it is well worth a few hours once a month on a Saturday afternoon to attend the meetings in person, and I encourage both old and new members to join in. Should new member be reluctant to show up 'cold' then think about swinging by the train show in Charleston on May 4 and 5 and meet some of the members.

CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinic Chair

Last month we had our first Mini Clinics of the year. Many thanks to those who shared with the group.

- Making an Apple Farm –Tony Puccini
- Automated Card Systems- Bob Weinheimer
- Upgrading Woodland Scenics Trees- Randy Allio

This month there will not be a clinic as we will be on the road learning. The clinics for the rest of the year are as follows:

June- NMRA Layout Tours- David Oliverio

July- Painting with Panpastels- Randy Allio

August- Building a Prototypical Rolling Stock Fleet- Sam Delauter

September-Crusty Mountain

October- Mini Clinic Event II

November- Adhesives Bob Osburn

December- Memorial Challenge

If you would be willing to do one of the October mini clinics please contact me.

Randy Allio 304-389-6445 clinic@coaldivision.org

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

The KVRA Model Railroad Show is coming up on May 4 - 5, 2024. We will be able to get into the Charleston Coliseum on Friday May 3 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM so that we may set up our modules.

The MCR convention is May 16 - 18, 2024 in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. I will be attending and will be taking four of my modules and Bob Osburn's corner module.

According to Bruce DeMaeyer, there will be 3 layouts in

the conference room. The T-TRAK layout, an N Rail layout and a HO layout using T-TRAK modules.

Also on May 17 -18, is the 2024 Ohio N Scale Weekend at the Union County Fairgrounds, 845 N Main Street, Marysville, Ohio. Marysville is about 45 minutes North West of Columbus on US 33.

CONTEST
Don Cipolla, Contest Chair
Photos by Don Cipolla

The contest category for April was Kitbashing/Scratch Built (Anything Railroad Related). Ten entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1st place Bob Osburn – Tugboat
 2nd place Mark Maynard – Tie Basket car
 3rd place tie Mark Maynard – Boom Flat car
 Mark Maynard – Rail Panel car

The May contest category is: Anything Steel Related.

2024	Monthly Model Contest
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotives Other Than Steam
April	Kitbashing/Scratch Built, (Anything Railroad Related)
May	Anything Steel Related
June	Non Revenue
July	Structures
August	Electronics of a Railroad
September	Photo, Model or Prototype
October	Open Loads
November	Passenger Cars
December	Annual Memorial Modeling Challenge



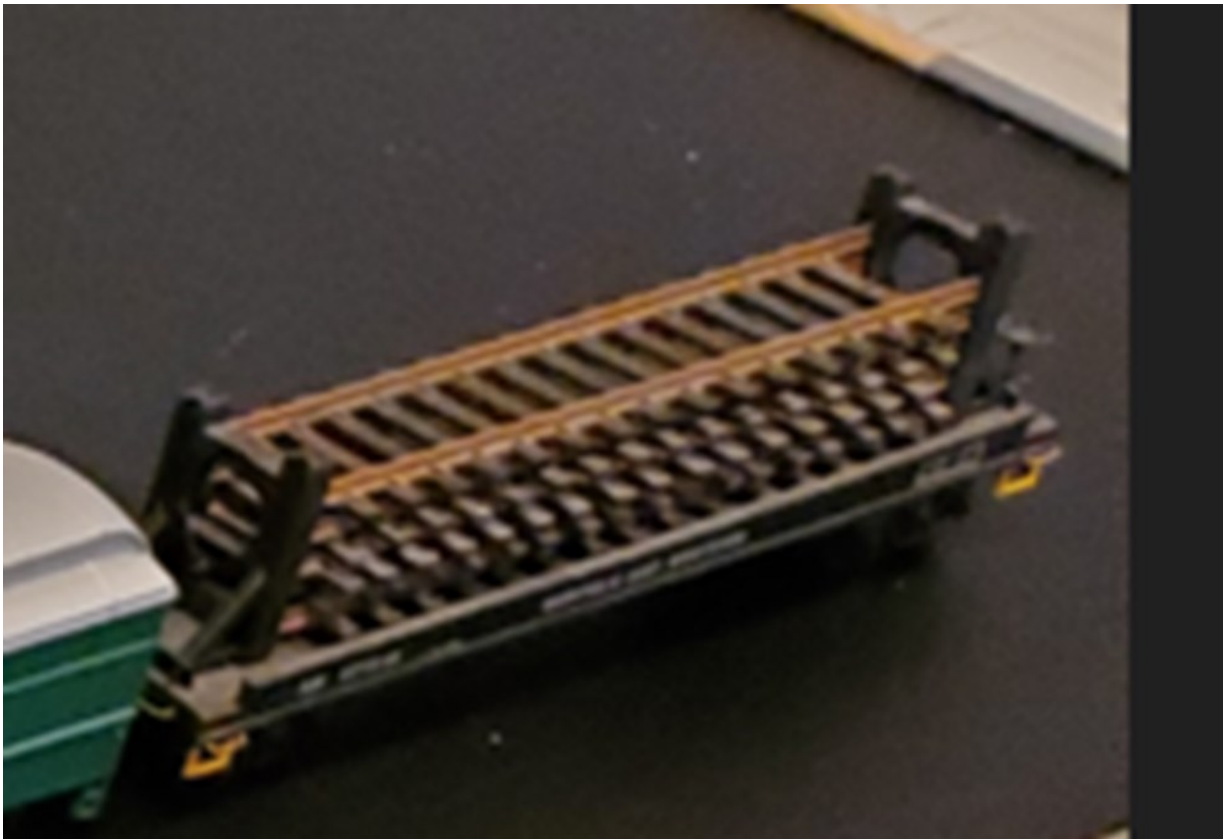
Bob Osburn - Tugboat (N scale)



Mark Maynard – Tie Basket Car (HO scale)



Mark Maynard – Boom Flat Car (HO scale)



Mark Maynard – Rail Panel Car (HO scale)

Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

I hope to see most of you at the KVMRA show on May 4th and 5th. I was a bit disappointed to hear we did not get as many volunteers for staffing the Coal Division booth but we will manage. I will be there Friday evening to set up so we will be ready when doors open at 10:00 on Saturday. Hopefully, we will be next to our T-TRAK group so that there can be some overlap in supervision of both. I have my projects all lined up for demonstration purposes and to kill the time. I invite others to do the same.

Thanks to Bill Stowe for his assistance in helping Mark Maynard with his "Meet the Modeler" article this month. I continue to encourage everyone to join in this endeavor as it a great way to get to know others in the Division regardless of the level of modeling skills or the status of their layout. As previously stated, I will be glad to offer any assistance I can to help you put your article together and I believe Bill will be glad to help also. Again, it does not have to be long and involved. As you will see Mark's article is short and to the point. It only has to tell your story and let us know more about you.

I would like to get several of these put together as soon as possible so we do not have to wait till last minute to get final draft to Bob Weinheimer for the newsletter. I would be great to have several "in the can." They should be in Word and if possible include a photograph. We too can help with that. I would prefer to receive articles the first of the last week in the month so to meet out last weekend of the month deadline. Get writing!

I am looking forward to this month's meeting in Gallopis as it has been a while since I have operated or even seen the Grafton & Greenbrier. I hope that this will be well attended as it is certainly worth the trip. I understand this may be one of the last opportunities to do so. Anyone needing a ride from the Charleston area can contact me at 304-610-7853 or at AandNRR@aol.com. I will allow an hour and half to get there from Charleston.

As I just returned from a two week vacation, this month's article is a bit smaller than normal. I did not really have in railroad experiences to relate to. Next month should be better.

MEET THE MODELER

Mark Maynard
Photo by Bill Stowe

I come from a railroad family, as my grandfather and my father both worked for the N&W railroad. I suppose that I was lucky in that I was the first boy born into the Maynard household. As such, I was introduced to railroading at an early age. Even small things, like my Dad taking me with him to pick up his check, gave me opportunities to see the railyard and the trains. As I grew up, my Dad would take me to work with him once in a while. But my absolute favorite thing was to be taken to a wreck site and to see the 'Big Hook' do its job. It was amazing to see how bent up and literally destroyed train cars could get in a derailment.

My first train, of the smaller scale, was an American Flyer set on a 4 by 8 sheet of plywood. But as luck would have it, I received a HO set for Christmas in 1972 and have never looked back. I soon had a poorly built and poorly laid track plan, but it still allowed me to learn and have fun running trains. After getting my own place around 1975, the first iteration of the Crusty Mountain and Wiloby Springs Railroad soon began. Then a move to where I currently live in 1980 killed that layout, but gave me a new larger space for the next attempt. By now I was learning how to lay better track, convert to Kadee couplers, and put together 'Blue Box Kits'. Then in 1987 I bit the bullet and got married to a woman with two children,



so down came the railroad to make space for her kids. Fast forward a few years to 1993 and we have arrived in the barn and construction of the latest version of the CM&WS that you now know.

So, that's my story, 50 years in HO scale and still counting, and still building and improving my skills to become the modeler that I am today.

CLUB NEWS

Clubs within the boundaries of the Coal Division are welcome to submit items of interest for inclusion here. The next editorial deadline for this column is Monday February 26. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club
By Mark Suek

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is making final preparations for its annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House, set for May 18, from 10-4, at the club facility in the rear basement of NOE Office Equipment in Parkersburg. The theme will be Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends.

One highlight of the open house will be the unveiling of benchwork and design on the brand new (and huge) O scale layout. This layout will feature a full-size track, scen-

ery and accessory diagram, laid down on the fresh benchwork. Club president Jonathan Insley and member Jim Mysakowec made a trip to New York to acquire a giant power house, which will be used as a central feature on the O scale layout.

Guests at the Shive Memorial Open House will also want to note all the new scenery and control upgrades on the club HO layout and take a shot at winning a Lionel Thomas The Tank O scale train set.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Every couple of years we change officers but sometimes those folks stand for reelection meaning the change happens at the four year mark. That's the case now with the Coal Division. Our outgoing Superintendent, Robert Osburn, came to office just as we added two new words to our vocabulary: Covid and Zoom. He did a fine job of guiding us through those years and earned recognition for it at the National level with the President's Award for Service to the Division.

Sam Delauter will be moving from Assistant Superintendent to the big job. I believe Sam, a fairly young guy, will do well with a little help from all of us. I know he wants to improve our hybrid meeting efforts and that would be welcome.

Bill Stowe is our incoming Assistant Superintendent, his article in this issue raises some good points about the Achievement Program. I think it's time again to demystify it and will do so with a clinic later this year.

Let's be sure to show both Sam and Bill our interest in their success by helping the Division in whatever way is needed. It may be to volunteer to help at a train show, present a clinic, or just help putting away the chairs after the meeting. Every little bit helps!

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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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer, MMR®

Photo by Herb Parsons

It was a great pleasure to present Don Cipolla with his Master Model Railroader® certificate at our April meeting. His plaque has arrived and he will receive it at our May meeting with a repeat presentation at the MCR convention the following weekend.

Association Volunteer paperwork has been submitted for Sam Delauter and Dale Osburn, I hope to have their certificates in time to present them at our May meeting.

Bill Stowe discussed the Achievement Program in his column. While it seems there are not very many MMR®s after 63 years, I would like to note that the number, since about 1990, has doubled every 15 to 20 years. That is in the face of declining membership over much of that time. I know I knew nothing about the program until I looked for it on the NMRA web site. Much to my surprise, I had already done much of what was required! Take a look yourself, you might get a surprise!



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

In order to produce Up The Holler about ten days before the monthly membership meeting, editorial work starts the Monday of the week preceding the meeting. That works out to be the dates below by which I need articles for the first few months of 2024.

- June: May 27
- July: July 1

- August; No issue this month
- September: September 2
- October: September 30
- November: October 28
- December: December 2

The Mid-Central
Regional Convention
May 16-19 2024
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00
through 12/31/2023



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

Convention Merchandise

*The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's
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SCHEDULE of EVENTS

*Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms
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Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,
Non-Rail Tours*

*More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.
Look for updates on the NCL site!*

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T-TRAK™

Call for N-Scale T-TRAK Modules!

It's here! The call for N-Scale T-TRAK modules! It is for those N-Scale T-TRAK modelers who will be attending the North Coast Limited convention, hosted by The North Coast Division of the NMRA Mid Central Region. The convention will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio from May 16-19, 2024.

Let Us Know You're Coming!

<https://forms.gle/RkKrdTWxcZetGDUr6>

Useful Links

NMRA Mid Central Region, North Coast Division

<https://www.div4.org/>

North Coast Limited Convention

<https://northcoastlimited2024.org/>

T-TRAK Information

<https://ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Home>

T-TRAK Wiki

<http://ttrak.wikidot.com/>

Questions

If you have any questions, please send an email to both Ramhog Shearer ramhog5@aol.com and Frank Trocchia ftrocchi@yahoo.com.



RAIL FESTIVAL AT CARILLON PARK

Presented by the James F. Dicke Family

JUNE 22 & 23 2024

SATURDAY | 9:30am - 5:00pm
SUNDAY | 11:00am - 4:00pm

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Historical Exhibits • Rail Vendors
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2024 NMRA

NATIONAL CONVENTION



AUGUST 4 - 11

LONG BEACH, CA



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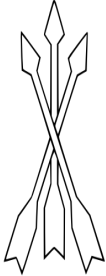
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Ed Keith, MMR
 Assistant Superintendent
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The POSSUM HOLLOW Branch

Under Construction

A small N-scale layout of a fictional Appalachian branch line of the Chesapeake & Ohio set in the early 50s or late 70s.

Matt Kearns, Chief Engineer
 South Charleston, WV
 mattkearnswv@gmail.com

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



HINTON DIVISION

Gary Burdette - Superintendent
 Point Pleasant WV



NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendant
 Ronceverte WV

Upcoming Coal Division Events

**May 11
Gallipolis, Ohio
In Person**

**May 16-19
Mid Central Region Convention
Middleburg, OH**

**June 8
St. Albans Historical Society
In Person and Zoom**

**July 13
Randy Allio's Home
In Person**

**August 10
St. Albans Historical Society
Picnic on the Platform**

**September 14
Portsmouth, OH**