



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

July 2024

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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The Coal Division was back at the St. Albans Historical Society for our June meeting. We had a great turnout and some very lively discussion on a few topics. First, we discussed the Picnic On the Platform. This event has been a great success in the past and this year will be no different. Although there are a number of items that the NMRA will provide, there are still a number of other items that we will need for the picnic. If you have not signed up to bring something, please consider doing so. I will bring the sign up sheet to the July meeting.

Another upcoming event is our yearly Memorial Challenge. At the June meeting, Robert Osburn displayed a few modules of different sizes and manufacturers. Robert also had a power point presentation documenting his and Tony Puccini's efforts to build a module. If you have not considered building a module, please take the time to consider the benefits. We use the T-TRAK layout at train shows not only to have an operating display but we also use it to reach out to the general public. As the other guys involved in T-TRAK will tell you, it is a blast displaying and running trains at these shows. This also gives us an added chance to spend time with other Coal Division members. For example, a couple of years ago we displayed at the Huntington Train Show. Only Herb and myself were available that weekend but had a really great time together at the show.

At the June meeting we tied up the last of the old business from the MCR convention. At the convention, in his absence, I accepted Robert's plaque for his time as our Superintendent. For those that may not know, this plaque was in recognition for his years of service as division super intendant. It was my honor to accept this and to present it to Robert.

Also at the June meeting we had a new member, Danny Clagg. I hope that we all made him feel welcome.

Our July meeting will be held at Randy Allio's home. He and his wife have graciously offered to host our meeting. Always a highlight of a meeting, they will also be providing us with BBQ for lunch. Make sure to plan enough time not only for the meeting and fellowship but also to see Randy's layout. Randy has been working very hard to prepare the layout not only for us but also working to get his scenery certificate. This meeting is also a great chance to carpool together. Not only will this give us a chance for fellowship it will also help make parking a bit easier.

The contest in July will be structures. This is always a popular contest and sees a good turnout. Also at the July meeting, Randy will be giving a clinic on painting with pan pastels. If you are looking to purchase any Pan Pastels, bring some cash as Randy always has some for sale.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Randy's on July 13th. Come early before the meeting to see the layout. The meeting starts at 1pm.

DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Sam Delauter
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent
Bill Stowe
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Clerk- Jerry Doyle
304-638-2826
clerk@coaldivision.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen
Bob Weinheimer MMR®
304-546-5896
ap@coaldivision.org

Clinic
Randy Allio
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest
Don Cipolla MMR®
Mark Maynard
contest@coaldivision.org

Education
Vacant

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

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

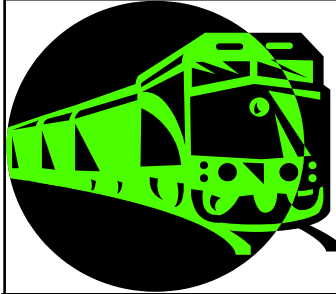
Raffle
Tony Puccini
raffle@coaldivision.org

T-TRAK
Herb Parsons
t-trak@coaldivision.org

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR®
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR®
webmaster@coaldivision.org



Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday July 13

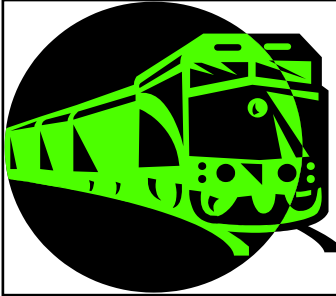
Randy Allio's Home

Doors open at 10 AM

Business Meet at 1 PM

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **Contest: Structures**
- **Clinic: Randy Allio shows how to paint with Pan Pastels**

**Next Meeting
August 10**



**Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event**

Saturday August 10 1:00 PM

St. Albans Historical Society

Coal Division Picnic on the Platform

12:30 Cooking starts

1:00 Start eating!

Later:

- **Contest: Railroad Electronics**
- **Raffle**
- **Clinic: Building a Prototypical Rolling Stock Fleet
by Sam Delauter**

Next Event

Saturday September 21

West Portsmouth, OH

JULY MEETING DIRECTIONS

Janet and I will be honored to have you visit for the July 13 Meeting. I will be available from ten AM until whenever you want to leave. We can do tours of my woodshop and check on progress on my double deck On30 Layout. Food and beverage will be available with lunch beginning at noon.

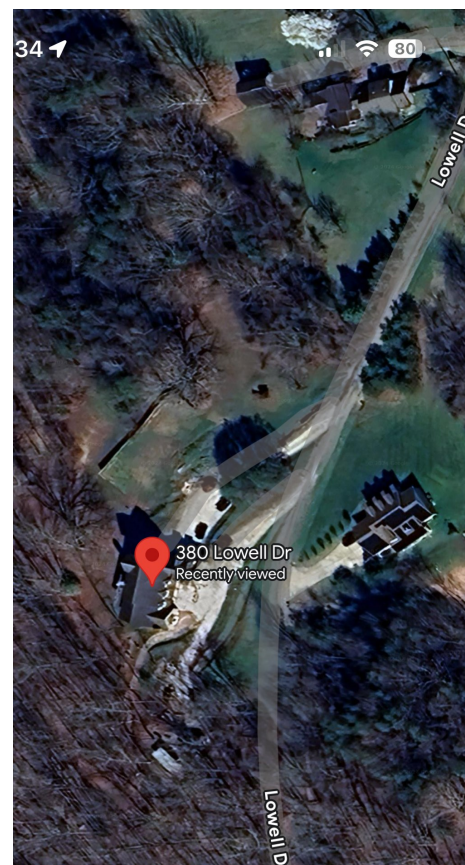
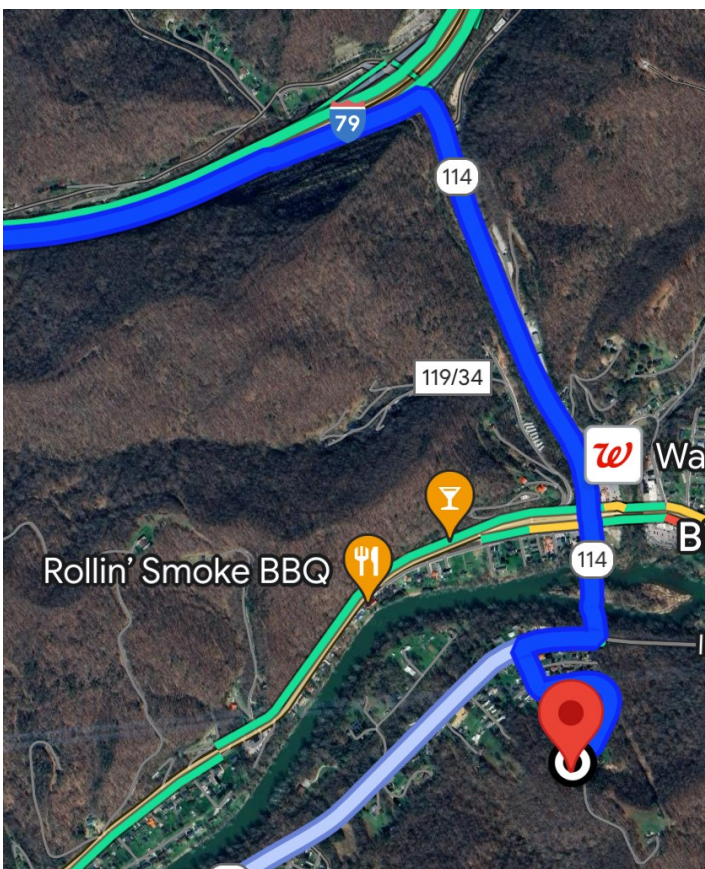
Directions: North bound I-79 Get off exit 5 and turn right. Proceed to four way stop. Go straight across bridge and turn right at the light. Go about 300 yards and turn left on Lowell Dr. Proceed up the hill till you come to a gravel drive on the right. Turn in and you are here. If this drive is full more parking on second driveway on up the hill.

GPS

380 Lowell Dr. Elkview, WV

If lost call 304-389-6445

Randy Allio



To the left is a map showing directions for the last little bit. To the right is a better view without the heavy blue line. Zoom in as necessary.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
Minutes June 8, 2024
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV

Introduction of members and introduction of new member – Danny Clagg. Welcome Danny! Committee chairs were asked to give a brief overview of what their committee does to help Danny come up to speed.

Superintendent report:

Sam Delauter touched on attending the convention, and recognized the awards that went to several of the members from Division 9.

Assistant Superintendent report:

Bill Stowe added to Sam's comments on convention – touched on Randy's clinics being well attended despite being a late add, and recognized Sam's quick response to address an issue with the contest awards for one of our members.

Treasurers report:

No changes, Historical Society room rent \$105/3 months

Newsletter:

July 1 newsletter deadline. No August newsletter, September newsletter will be a recap of July and August

Achievement program:

Bob Weinheimer presented Achievement Program award to Dale Osburn for Association Volunteer.

Good general discussion on Achievement Program – as an opportunity to broaden skills, judging can be done at contests and locally, the key is understanding the requirements and openness.

Library

Quick review of what it is for new member

Contest

This month was non revenue. Note we did not ask participants to talk to entries – we will make sure we do this next time.

Clinics:

Sam covered as Randy Allio was absent. General comment we need to continue to stress education.

Membership

43 members as of now. John requested people wanting name tags to let him know – getting a minimum order of at least 4 really helps the price. Several members voiced interest, meeting the minimum order.

Discussion on shirts – 4-Imprint offers polo shirts at \$30 to \$35 each. Discussion on whether to have pockets, color, logo. Decision on white logos on black shirt, may be option for pockets, sign up sheet to be at July meeting.

Raffle

Tony Puccini gave brief overview of what it is, importance to group financials.

Old Business

Sam presented Robert Osburn with the certificate of appreciation awarded at the convention from the Mid Central Region for service on the MCR Board of Directors.

New business

Sam walked through the preparation for the August picnic, put out signup sheet for folks to participate. Mentioned that this is a recruitment/retention activity – so encourage attendance, bring potential new members.

Upcoming events:

2025 Mid Central Region convention – in Columbus, website open for registration now

Mark Maynard. requested September meeting moved to Sept 21 – all approved

Narrow gauge convention – Pittsburgh Sept 14

Altoona N gauge show/convention – Sept 14

Meeting adjourned.

David Oliverio had a slide show about his visits to several of the layouts he visited in Wisconsin.

Robert Osburn – walked through a PowerPoint on intro to T-TRAK modules and how to assemble.

Bill Stowe
Acting Clerk



Photo by Herb Parsons

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

June has been another busy model railroading month, mainly with the expansion of Mark Maynard's Crusty Mountain and Wiloby Springs railroad.

The River Northern yard involves an addition of a roughly 26 foot long by 2.5 foot wide space on the exterior of the current layout. It will add a significant yard capacity of 7 staging tracks of about 25 to 30 car trains. The location of the new yard has provided some challenges. It is on the outside of a 75 year old pole barn which, like me, tends to have sags and curves in all the wrong places. The approach is to build the yard as modules on the ground then install and hook them up on a base built on the barn.

I doubt it will be ready for the meeting at Mark's in September but there will be a chance for members to see the progress to date. I think Mark is hoping to have one or two of the modules ready for show on the ground.

For those of you who haven't operated on Mark's layout, I would encourage you to give it a try, be it at the

meeting or one of the weekly operating sessions on Thursday mornings.

With my limited operating experience I would describe Mark's system as short on paper and control (for dispatching trains) but long on throttle time. The yardmaster (Mark) generally controls the operation of the layout. The layout is very focused on Mark's time with Norfolk Western/Norfolk Southern which is switching industries. Industry switching is simply car for car but highly complex in managing the movement of cars. And with many different types of industries, there is high variety of movements. The use of Kadee uncoupler systems adds a nice complexity to the switching as hand uncoupling/coupling is discouraged.

While I recognize it is a drive for folks from the Charleston area, I would suggest it is well worth the trip. I hope to see you there in September.

CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinic Chair

Here is a list of the remaining clinics for this year:

July-Painting with Pan Pastels- 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

Please consider giving a clinic next year. The schedule is wide open. We all have skills that the group would love to have you share. Thanks

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 has completed its annual membership dues payment cycle, with the usual comings and goings of its membership roster, and is looking forward to its annual Parkersburg Homecoming Festival Open House on August 17, 10-4, at the club facility in downtown Parkersburg. This year's theme will be "Trains That Built America" with model railroad operations (in five scales) focusing on coal, lumber and steel.

Over the course of the past two years, MOVVRC has learned some lessons from efforts it's tried at open houses and would like to share the following with the NRMA Coal Division and other clubs: In our experience:

1. It is important to have some sort of theme for each event.

2. It is important to continuously upgrade and change the vignettes on the layouts.
3. It is important to keep the offerings fresh and try new ways to enhance the experience of our guests and
4. It is important to offer high quality drawing prizes, which appeal to a wide variety of attendees. It is also beneficial to offer multiple prizes.

Scale Trains is scheduled to visit MOVVRC on July 31, at 6:45 pm, to conduct a "meet and greet" and give a presentation about current, and future, product offerings. MOVVRC's contact for this event is Chris Reynolds at (540) 440-0128.

T-TRAK Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair Photos by Herb Parsons

On Saturday, June 22, 2024, I drove up to Dayton, Ohio for the Carillon Historical Park for the Rail Fest. The first thing I saw after entering the building was the info table for Division 3 and right next to that was their T-TRAK layout. I spent almost a half hour talking with the T-TRAK crew. They had 11 modules, and it was getting a lot of attention. In the main exhibit room were vendors and the Division 3 Ntrak layout. In another part of the building was an S scale modular layout and a Lego trains layout.

Outside the Carillon Park train was running. Talking with some of the crew I found out that the replica steam

locomotive was powered by a battery pack in the tender. The locomotive has sound and smoke generators installed for a more realistic appearance. In another part of the park the live steam group was running some of their diesel power and giving rides on the trains.

I walked into the transportation building and there were more layouts and vendors. One of the layouts was a HO_n2 based on the Maine two footers and the other was a HO-HO_n3. Outside was a LGB layout on the lawn.

While I was there, I visited the Wright Brothers Bicycle shop. And yes, I did spend some money for N-scale trains.



CONTEST
Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs
Photos by Mark Maynard

The contest category for June was Non-Revenue. Five entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1st place: Mark Maynard – Ballast regulator
 2nd place tie
 Tony Parrish – MAXT 505 MW
 Mark Maynard – Weed Wacker
 3rd Place: Mark Maynard – ROW Ditcher

The July contest category is: Structures.
 The August contest is Electronics of a Railroad.

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



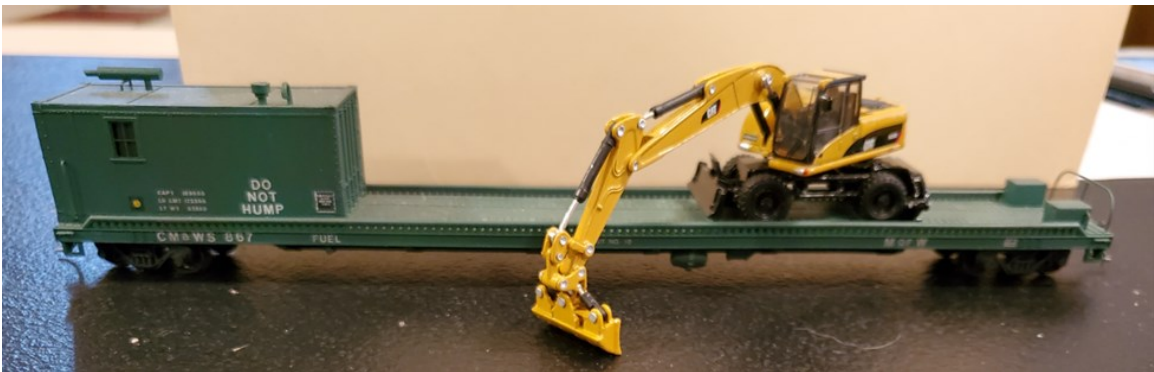
Mark Maynard – Ballast Regulator (HO scale)



Tony Parrish – MAXT 505 MW (HO scale)



Mark Maynard – Weed Wacker (HO scale)



Mark Maynard – ROW Ditcher (HO scale)

Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

I was pleased to welcome newest member to the Coal division at our last meeting. Welcome Danny Clagg from Glenwood, WV. For those, like me who are not familiar with where this community might be, it is located along the Ohio River approximately half way between Huntington and Point Pleasant. Based on latest information from the region, this brings our total to 44 current members. This is our highest number since the pre-Covid days. I am hoping this trend continues and we can look forward to welcoming more members in the near future.

At our last meeting, the members present voted nearly unanimously to proceed with ordering black polo shirts with the Coal Division logo. I have reached out and confirmed that classic knit pique shirts are available with or

without pockets. Logos will be in white embroidery approximately 2" in diameter on the upper left chest side of shirt. Sizes are said to run true ranging from S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL, & 4XL. They are also available in women's proportion if needed. Price range depending on quantities appear to be in the \$24.00 range for non pocket version and \$27.00 for those with pockets

I should have sample material available at our meeting along with an order form for those in attendance. For those not able to make it to the July meeting, please contact me directly at AandNRR@aol.com or call at 304-610-7853. No deposit is required but please be sure you want one before signing up. I will move forward on the honor system. Just let me know size and style.



Sample Shirt



Sample Logo

On related matter, I was able to get cut the 4 name badges requested at the last meeting and will have them for distribution. I also added to the order a new badge for Don Cipolla as we were now able to now add MMR after his name. I am looking forward to seeing his Bio on an upcoming "Meet the Modeler" article in our newsletter. With that, I again want to put in a plug for the rest of you to start working on your own article or reach out to me to help put one together with you. It is a tremendous way to get to know our members. It also allows us to understand

your interests and even your modeling strengths to better provide clinics and educational opportunities. The more we know, the better we serve. It may also lead someone reaching out to you for advice or insights in how you might have done something that they would also like to try. It is all about raising the level of our individual modeling skills. After all, that is one of the main reasons cited in why we joined NMRA. That, and the fellowship.

Speaking of which, I will see you at the next meeting.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer, MMR®

Photo by Herb Parsons

It was a pleasure to present Dale Osburn with his Association Volunteer certificate. Dale earned this certificate for his service as the Contest Manager for the past five years.

I am also please to let you know that Randy Allio has earned the Author and Prototype Model certificates. I hope to present them to him at our July meeting.

Also, at the July meeting we expect to evaluate Randy's cars. Those of you who are interested in this process are welcome to watch and even participate. It can be the opportunity to demystify the process and you can even have the chance to help in the process. We have already evaluated his structures so that should be going in for approval as will the cars if all goes well.

I urge all of you to look at the requirements and your own work. You might be pleasantly surprised to see how close you might be to a certificate or two.



MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As noted last month, there will not be an August newsletter this year. I have included information for the August meeting events (Picnic on the Platform) as well as a note in the contest report letting you know about the August contest.

The September issue should include the minutes of the July and August meetings as well as contest results from both months.

I will be on the road to the National Convention and NMRA Board of Directors meeting in California at the time the August issue would be in production and didn't feel that would work very well. There will be a one page

notice sent to the newsletter distribution list around the first of August reminding you of the August meeting.

I am looking forward to the July meeting at Randy Allio's home. If you have visited my dispatcher's office, you will see the wonderful shop in which the cabinets were made. I understand Randy will be supplying lunch and perhaps some home made ice cream.

Of course the next month will be the Picnic on the Platform with lots more goodies to consume. Then we'll be off to Mark Maynard's in September. Again, we'll be fed. I think we might get spoiled!

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 the be the dates below by which I need articles for the first few months of 2024.

- September: September 2
- October: September 30
- November: October 28
- December: December 2



2024 NMRA

NATIONAL CONVENTION



AUGUST 4 - 11



LONG BEACH, CA

WWW.SURFLINER2024.ORG

GET ON BOARD TODAY!






Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN




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



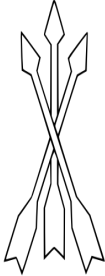
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY



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




Ed Keith, MMR
 Assistant Superintendent
 Chesapeake, OH



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



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

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

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

**September 21
Portsmouth, OH**

**October 12
St. Albans Historical Society**