

UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

November 2025

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

The October meeting was once again back at the St. Albans Historical Society. Thank you to everyone who came to this event. At the October meeting, we saw the final Mini Clinic Event of the year. This event is always a lot of fun and a great chance for those who do not often give a clinic (myself included) or those who have never given a clinic a good opportunity to try. Many thanks to Randy Allio for keeping a good variety of quality clinics scheduled throughout the year. If you would like to give a clinic or have suggestions for a clinic, please let Randy know. He is starting to schedule the clinics for 2026 and is in need of volunteers.

With 2025 coming to a close, so is the 2025 Memorial Challenge. As always, Robert Osburn has done an amazing job organizing the challenge for us. Robert has always done a great job keeping the challenge fresh and giving us a great opportunity to try something that we may not have had the chance to otherwise. This year's challenge is the ITLA models Olympia Tool and Die. We would like to display the completed model at our December meeting so keep working hard on these models. If you are having any issues with building this model, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, Robert, or another Coal Division member.

The Appalachian Model Railroad Society show will be held in Huntington November 28-30. The Coal Division will be in attendance with our T-TRAK modules. This has always been a good show with ample time to spend with our membership and with the general public. If you have some spare time to spend at the show, the Coal Division could use your help. In addition to the T-TRAK, Robert will have the remaining books from Ed Keith's estate for sale. We also will have many of the items from the recent donation for sale. Any help from our membership would be greatly appreciated.

The November Coal Division meeting will be held at the St. Albans Historical Society. David Oliverio will be giving the clinic on NMRA Convention Layout Tours and the contest will be Passenger Cars. The doors open at noon and the meeting will start at 1:00 pm. I hope to see you there.

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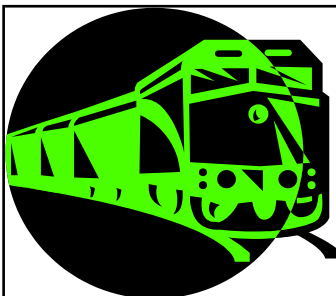
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DIVISION STAFF

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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

1:00 PM Saturday November 8

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Time: Nov 8, 2025 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83690033075>

Meeting ID: 836 9003 3075

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Passenger Cars**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: David Oliverio will show us the layouts he visited during the National Convention**

**Next Meeting
December 12, 2025**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St. Albans Historical Society

St. Albans, WV

October 11 2025

Meeting Minutes

Sam Delauter called meeting to order. Last month's minutes approved

Superintendent: Sam appreciated support from the group as he worked through potential conflict with work for the meeting

Clerk: No report

Assistant Superintendent: Bill Stowe acknowledged all of Sam's efforts to ensure meeting would go smoothly if he couldn't make it. He also recognized Tony Puccini, Jerry Doyle, and Mark Maynard for their efforts to raise funds for the challenge through auctions of recently donated items.

Newsletter: Next deadline is Oct 27th.

Achievement Program: No updates

NMRA Updates: Softening on Division logo 'ban', region logo's are probably history. Electronic items will change quickly, physical items less quickly. More to come in next NMRA e-bulletin. If you're not getting these, please sign into NMRA website to update your email address.

Clinic: Spots available for next year. Currently have Jerry Doyle in January and Randy Allio in July. Randy encouraged everyone to participate, mini-clinics are a great way to start. Question from Steve Vickers as to what is expected led to good discussion.

T-TRAK: Herb Parsons provided recap on Altoona show. About 102 modules, multiple trains on different loops. For 1st time held clinics: signals by Atlas, state of N scale in Japan, LED lighting, weathering with acrylics. Clinics were a big hit and will probably continue next year.

Membership: No update.

Raffle: \$63 from raffle, good participation. Additional \$135 from auction sales.

Old Business

Memorial challenge: Bob Osburn talked to this briefly, asking who had started on their models. Three had, pleased with the kits, and mentioned that vendor tutorials very good and highly recommended. Some confusion as to whether benefits from recent auctions would go towards this year's challenge or for next year's challenge. Need guidance from Jerry Doyle. on how much has been raised to date and need discussion on next steps. To be done next month.

Division library: Bill Stowe kicked off discussion with options. Good discussion on next steps. Question came up as to what is priority for our committee chairs. It was pointed out we do not fill the education chair, which may be more key to the group than library chair. Bill to follow up with other groups for how they use education position. We will revisit and decide on library next month.

New Business

December Meeting: It was decided to hold the meeting in St. Albans again. Format will be tables for folks to display their challenge models. It was suggested we have a couple of tables for a small T-Trak layout to have trains running to support the Christmas spirit. As opposed to folks bringing food as we did last year it was suggested we bring in pizza, Sam was going to check with St. Albans to see if they were ok with that. It was also suggested we open this to include family, this will be revisited next month to see what interest is and what numbers we might be dealing with.

Huntington Train Show: Three items were discussed:

Do we have a booth? – Decision was no due lack of interest the last few years and need to support following items.

Tables for items to sell – Need for a couple of tables to sell off more of donated items to support the challenge, and Robert Osburn needs some space to sell books. Volunteers were requested to staff the tables.

T-TRAK space and support for Herb Parsons. Comment was it would be great to have more folks participate in providing modules from the last year's challenge. Herb needs to know number of modules by November 1 to get needed space. Sam to send out email to members encouraging participation and for folks to let Herb know before Nov 1

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Bill Stowe, Acting Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

One of my follow-ups from our last meeting was to explore what other parts of the NMRA do with the education committee chair position. Bob Weinheimer suggested that I reach out to our region representative for education, I have not yet done that. I have utilized the NMRA website to look at general recommendations for supporting the education mandate and using division newsletters to get an idea on how other divisions in our region do this (also available on the NMRA website).

To encourage others to leverage the website I will include the path of menus I followed to get to the specific information.

My first stop was to look for general recommendations from the NMRA. I used the Superintendent's Handbook (Regions/Regions and Divisions/ Superintendent's Handbook). This tends to be a general guideline dated April 2016, with some specific direction on key areas. The guideline talks in depth to suggestions on how to run clinics, but simply refers to the leadership as 'Education/Clinic Program Chair'. To my mind it reads as one position, not two.

My second stop was to look at the newsletters from divisions in our region to see what they do on staffing the Education/Clinic Chair, and what they do under education (Regions/scroll down to Mid Central region). This is not as accurate as talking to division folks or attending their meetings, but it is a start. What I found can be summed up simply as:

- Every division is different.
- Not one has a education program chair.
- Not all have a clinic chair, although some still have clinics noted in their newsletter.
- Some seem to call clinics by another name like programs.
- Other divisions seem to focus on other activities like 'Bring and Brag'.

So, what are my thoughts on impact for our division?

- In our current world makes no sense to me to have an education chair as it would just duplicate the clinic chair role.
- What is significantly different in our division is the annual challenge.
- Filling the education chair may be something to look at when we begin to discuss how to continue supporting the challenge after Robert steps back. But my opinion is that we should focus first on how to support the challenge, and then see if the education chair is part of that answer.
- However we decide to continue to support the challenge I personally feel we should look at how to engage more folks rather than have one person go it alone as Robert has done. I'm not sure we fully understand how much time Robert has spent pulling the challenges together.

CLINICS

Randy Allio MMR®, Clinics Chair

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ November: David Oliverio: NMRA Convention Layout Tours ◆ December: Annual Challenge ◆ January: Jerry Doyle ◆ February ◆ March | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ April ◆ May ◆ June ◆ July: Randy Allio ◆ August ◆ September |
|---|--|

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 coming year.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December: December 1 • January: December 29 • February: February 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March: March 2 • April: March 30 • May: April 27 • June: June 1 • July: June 29 • August: July 27 • September: August 31 • October: September 28 |
|--|---|

CONTEST

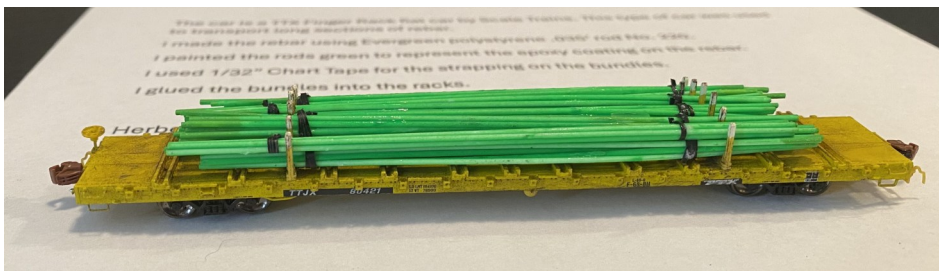
Don Cipolla MMR® and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

October 2025 Contest

Herb Parsons and Matt Kearns were tied for first place. Sam Delauter was third behind Herb and Matt. Herb had a rebar load, Matt had a piggyback flat, and Sam had a wood load.

The November contest category is: Passenger Cars.

2025	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



This is the first place N Scale rebar load made by Herb Parsons

This is the other first place finisher by Matt Kearns



This is Sam Delauter's lumber load.

My Word **Bob Weinheimer MMR®**

At the October NMRA BoD session we learned a bit more about the rebranding rollout. It will be in the eBulletin coming out November 1. We had a chance to see the style guide and some of the other supporting items that will be made available to Divisions and Regions. By the time we meet on November 8 you will have had a chance to see the new logo. Some of you may like it and others may not. As one board member said, he wasn't keen about it when he first saw it but now he's on board with it. In other words, don't jump to judgement, give it a chance if you don't immediately like it. It will be easily recognized as having a railroad theme, a bit unlike the outgoing logo that left members asking what it was.

Members received a brief survey about the value of their membership. This is a benchmark against we will measure progress in the coming years. The results of this survey will also be shared in the November eBulletin.

You can keep up with the other Vision 2035 activities and goals by reading NMRA President Gordy Robinson's columns in the NMRA Magazine.

The Board will meet formally the Friday preceding the big train show in Springfield. If you are there a day early, you are welcome to drop in to see us in action and to meet the other National leaders.

This will be my last board meeting as I will term out just before the summer meeting in Chattanooga.

T-TRAK **Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair**

The Appalachian Model Railroad Society's annual train show is coming up on November 28, 29 and 30, 2025. I had 7 members contact me about setting up their T-TRAK modules for the show. That will give us 25 modules. We will be using the same configuration as last

year, the layout will be in a T shape. I have talked with 1 member of AMRS and told them what will be needed in space and tables. I will be in contact with the show organizer on November 1 with the final shape and size and number of tables for the layout.

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 the Monday of the week preceding the second Saturday of each month.. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club
By Mark Suek

PARKERSBURG- The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club hosted a successful 30th Annual Fall Train Show at West Virginia University's Parkersburg campus on October 26. Tom Ratkovich served as chairman of this event for the final time. MOVIMRC's Show is thought to be the third largest in West Virginia with more than 100 vendor tables. The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Historical Society was represented with a booth at the show. Two of the most interesting artifacts at the show were a headlamp from an historically significant Shay geared steam locomotive, owned by Wayne Batten, and a Nathan five-chime horn from a Chessie System General Electric diesel locomotive, owned by Parker Atkinson.

Next on tap for the club are the nomination and election of officers for 2026, the annual Christmas Open House on December 6 at the club facility in the rear basement of NOE Office Equipment in downtown Parkersburg (hours are 10 am to 6 pm) and the annual Christmas Dinner on December 9. The Christmas Open House is part of Downtown PKB's annual Winterfest celebration.



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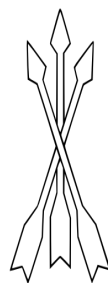
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CRESCENT VALLEY

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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
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Alleghany & New River Road

An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



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



John Harris, Chief Engineer
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HINTON DIVISION

Gary Burdette - Superintendent
 Point Pleasant WV



NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendant
 Ronceverte WV

Upcoming Coal Division Events

**November 8
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV**

**December 14
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV**

**January 10, 2026
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV**

**February 14, 2026
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV**