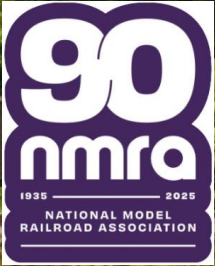




UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

December 2025

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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The November meeting was held at the St. Albans Historical Society. At the meeting, we saw several good entrants bring their passenger equipment for the contest. David Oliverio gave the clinic on Layout Tours from NMRA conventions. David has gone on many layout tours and documented many of them for us. I look forward to his follow-up on this clinic.

The AMRS Train Show was held November 28-30, 2025. Many of the Coal Division members were in attendance displaying the T-TRAK layout. For those who were unable to attend, you missed a great time with your fellow Coal Division members. I am sure that Herb Parsons will have more in his column about the T-TRAK display but we had a very good turnout. A minimum of 10 Coal Division members were in attendance along with a few friends or family helped man the layout. In addition to our membership, Craig Laing, Philip Hatfield as well as Michelle Knight helped staff the layout. Many thanks to those who helped make this a success.

The December meeting will see the culmination of the 2025 Memorial Challenge. As always, Robert Osburn has done a great job with providing another great challenge. This year The Coal Division is building ITLA Models Olympia Tool and Die structure kit. These are extremely nice kits that are very detailed. If you are participating in the challenge, make sure to bring your completed kit to the December meeting. We will provide space to display your model and give each member time to talk about their model. If you have not completed your model yet and are having issues with construction, do not hesitate to reach out to myself, Robert, or another Coal Division member. We will be more than happy to help you.

The December meeting will be held on December 13th at the St. Albans Historical Society. Doors will open at 11:00 AM and the festivities will begin at noon. We will not be holding a business meeting, contest or clinic to give plenty of time for fellowship and to talk about our completed challenge model. Also at the December meeting, we will have several members providing refreshments. We will have pizza, desert and beverages. Much in the spirit of Christmas, we will have trains running at the meeting with a small T-TRAK setup. Please make sure to bring your module if you have volunteered to participate. We will need trains to run on the module. We would like to extend the invitation to all Coal Division members to bring their N scale trains to run on the modules.

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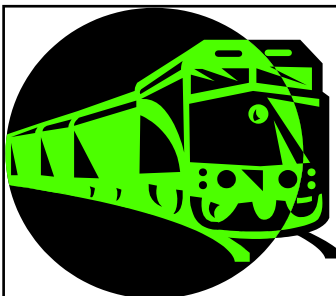
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

11:00 AM Saturday December 13

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

- **11:00 AM** Doors open for setup of T-TRAK and Challenges
- **12:00 Noon** Festivities start with lunch and Challenges discussions.
- **No formal meeting, contest, or raffle**

**Next Meeting
January 10, 2026**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St. Albans Historical Society

St. Albans, WV

November 8, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Sam Delauter called meeting to order, last month's minutes approved

Treasurer – no report

Superintendent report –

Assistant Superintendent report:

Lights bought with donations from Bill Stowe. and David Oliverio. These are to provide enhanced lighting for viewing contests, etc. Please try and give feedback. Hunterline no longer sells to USA due to tariffs. Some products available through US distributors, but their stock may be getting slim. NMRA website changing with new logo, etc. Bill tried new membership renew process on-line. Worked, but couple of details noted to make it go easier. He will cover in next month's newsletter.

Newsletter Chair: Next deadline Dec 1

NMRA changes. New logo available for viewing. Will begin to change on electronic forms such as newsletter. Use of region logos is gone, division logos can be used with some changes. New shirts, etc. will have to be with new logo, but old logo on existing shirts, etc. ok to still use.

Achievement Program. Little new activity. Tony Puccini mentioned he is ready for his scenery to be assessed. He is to reach out to Jerry, Don, or Randy to arrange a visit.

Contest: Today's contest is passenger cars, no contest next month, January is modeler's choice.

Clinic chair: No report. Still need people to sign up for 2026 clinics. No clinic in Dec, Jerry Doyle to do clinic in January. Sam Delauter to reach out to Randy Allio to clarify which of our members named Bob is to present in February.

T-TRAK Chair:

Dayton convention: T-TRAK organizer (Bruce) is requesting modules that have switching ability so one section of the layout can be used for operations. Intent is for convention attendees to be able to sign up for ½ hour sessions to operate portion of T-TRAK. Switches of the modules for operating must be operated automatically (via switch/switch machine) as opposed to manual to avoid people reaching across modules. Bruce to review this with convention committee for their final approval. Huntington show discussion under old business

Membership chair: No report

Raffle chair: \$67 raised today, no raffle in Dec.

Old Business:

Memorial Challenge: Good discussion and positive feedback on model quality and folk's progress. Question on funding for this year/next years challenge, Sam to follow up with Jerry. Funding needed to queue up with committee to develop next years chal-

lenge.

Division Library: Follow up from October meeting to decide future of library. Good discussion, final decision voted on to discontinue library, offer Model Railroader videos to public library, NMRA videos for members/disposal. Sam acknowledged and thanked Bill Wadsworth. for his work with the Division Library.

Huntington train show Nov 28 to 30:

Access times for set up: Wednesday 9 AM to 1 PM, Friday 1 PM to 5 PM Show starts 5 PM Friday Tables for sale of donated items: 2 tables arranged, Mark and Tony Puccini to set up. They will work on day/time for set up, and getting locomotives from Jerry. Tony Puccini and Mark will support over the show, more help appreciated. T-TRAK : Members can drop off modules on Wed if needed. Security is on site. Herb Parsons will be there 1 PM on Friday for coordinating setup. Help needed for both sales table and T-TRAK . Sign up sheet circulated, more help is needed.

December meeting (December 13):

T-TRAK : Matt Kearns/Herb Parsons are point. Need additional modules (2 doubles and corner), Don Cipolla to bring doubles, Bob Osburn to bring a corner. Folks open to bring trains to run, David Oliverio will make sure to bring some. Doors open at 11 for set up, festivities to start at 1 PM. No formal meeting. Decision that this will be for Coal Division members only, no family due to space. Food: Don and David to donate pizzas. Bill Stowe to bring sodas, water, ice, Bob Osburn. to bring plates, cutlery, and cups, and Mark Maynard to bring desert. Estimate 20 to 25 people.

New Business:

David Oliverio to donate wi-fi module for T-TRAK to enable easier operation.

MADD:

People with contest entries discussed their entries.

Matt Kearns asked if anyone had heard details of the relocation of the C&O 2-6-6-2 locomotive from Huntington to the Ohio Railroad Museum. Herb Parsons provided some information on a couple of options they are looking at to put the locomotive on a flat car. No date is known for the move. Matt asked that if anyone hears further details to let him know.

Tony Puccini mentioned he had received a text from Jerry saying that he and his students were making great progress on their Veterans Day project of cleaning up veteran's grave sites.

Mark Maynard mentioned that the modules for his new yard had been installed in the enclosure on the barn. He hopes to have the yard active for next years meeting at his house.

Bob Weinheimer. mentioned that Dan Mulhearn. is the superintendent of the division around Hagerstown, and that they will be hosting the 2027 regional convention for their region.

Bob also mentioned the board meeting is in Springfield MA on Jan 23rd for those who are going to the show.

Meeting adjourned.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

The new online system to renew membership is now active, and I used it to renew my membership. I feel it is worth a couple of quick notes for folks to make it go easier if you wish to use it.

The most important items (to my mind) are as follows:

- The membership site is now a new portal/website.
- You can access this from the NMRA website. Sign in, and then go to 'Membership, Renew NMRA Membership'. When the new page comes up, click on the button 'Renew Your NMRA Membership'. And then look for line that start with 'Instructions to create your user account...' and click on the link and follow the instructions.
- The key (to my mind) is that this process, unlike that for Discord, requires you to know the email name you originally used when signing up for NMRA. I think this is important as we have long terms members that may have changed emails over the years. If you're not sure, you can find out what email address you used on the NMRA site, just ask and I'll help you

out with this.

- You also need to know the NMRA password associated with this email address (which may be a challenge if you don't use this on a regular basis). This is required as during setting up the new access to the membership webpage, there will be a confirmation email sent to your email address to allow confirmation.
- One additional point. You will be required to set up a new password for the new portal/webpage. You cannot use your current NMRA password as the new site requires a 10 character password. Once you have access to the new webpage, it is relatively straight forward to renew your membership. If you have questions on this, please let me know. And I'm sure Sam Delauter, Bob Weinheimer, and Jerry Doyle would be glad to help out as well.

Beyond that, I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

CLINICS

Randy Allio MMR®, Clinics Chair

Clinic Schedule for 2026

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ♦ January: Jerry Doyle | ♦ July: Randy Allio, Tips for building Craftsman kits |
| ♦ February: Robert Osburn | ♦ August: Open |
| ♦ March: David Oliverio | ♦ September: Mark Maynard |
| ♦ April: Open | ♦ October: Mini Clinics |
| ♦ May: Open | ♦ November: Open |
| ♦ June: Open | ♦ December: Challenge |

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.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • January: December 29 | • April: March 30 |
| • February: February 2 | • May: April 27 |
| • March: March 2 | • June: June 1 |
| | • July: June 29 |
| | • August: July 27 |
| | • September: August 31 |
| | • October: September 28 |

CONTEST

Don Cipolla MMR® and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

The contest category for November was Passenger Cars. 5 entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1st place tie: Mark Maynard – CM&WS
Clena Vee

Sam Delauter – Erie 821

3rd place: Bob Weinheimer –
Pennsylvania Southern
Pennsylvania

The December contest category is: Memorial Challenge. The January contest category is: Modelers Choice.

2026	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



First Place Tie: Mark Maynard



First Place Tie: Sam Delauter



Third Place: Bob Weinheimer

My Word **Bob Weinheimer MMR®**

I am sorry to say that I will not be present at the December event. The only Saturday this month that worked for a Region Presidents Call is the 13th. As NMRA President Gordy Robinson and I will be hosting that meeting, it is imperative that I be there and not in St. Albans.

Bill Stowe has a number of good comments in his column about the new NMRA portal. If you don't know what email address you supplied to the NMRA, Sam Delauter can find that for you on the membership list he gets every month. If you have never supplied an email address, you are out of luck.

Bill did not mention a very nice new feature of the membership renewal process. If you go to the portal, you

will see what looks like two different Regular Member icons. A close look at one of them notes that it is for opting into an automatic renewal of your membership every year using PayPal. If you have trouble renewing in a timely manner, this may be for you! This is a feature I have been begging for since before I even joined the NMRA board.

Still to come is a program that lets you renew your membership one month at a time. This is meant to appeal to those whose budget might not allow a full annual membership each year.

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

The AMRS train is over for this year, and our T-TRAK layout drew a lot of attention. We set up in a T shape using 31 modules. Thanks to Craig Laing, we were able to use wireless throttles and cell phones in operate trains. Don Cipolla brought a wireless and gave some children a chance to run a train on our layout. Thanks to everyone who brought modules for the weekend, Sam Delauter, Robert Osburn, Don Cipolla, David Oliverio, Matt Kearns, Anthony Parrish, Tony Puccini, Craig Laing, Herbert Parsons, and Philip Armentrout. The members of AMRS were impressed with our growth and would like to see us bring more and they will make sure we have all the space we need. By the interest from other model rail-

roaders at the show, we may have more to work with next year.

An update on the report I made at the last meeting from Bruce DeMaeyer: As I reported, Bruce has brought up the idea of having an ops session on the T-TRAK layout at the Dayton Convention by setting up a layout in the shape of an E with the middle leg of the E having modules with industry spurs. Bruce presented a power point to the convention committee, and they approved the layout. Bruce would like everyone with a module that has a turnout to an industry bring them to Dayton in June. A good example of what he wants is like Anthony Parrish and Tony Puccini's modules.

Thank you to Walter Mycoff **Tony Puccini**

Many of Coal Division members have made significant contributions to the Division and all contributions are greatly appreciated. A few months ago, Walter Mycoff donated a myriad of HO DCC locomotives along with freight cars, track, bridges, buildings, memorabilia, etc. to the Division. There were hundreds of items. This is by far the greatest gifting that Coal Division has ever re-

ceived. Some of Walter's gifts will be present on member's model railroads. Much will be auctioned to provide funds for members to enjoy outings and projects. Nearly all had been sold including quite a bit at the recent Huntington train show. Thank you, Walter, for your friendship and your generosity.

Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

Here we are nearing the end of 2025 and getting ready to meet for our annual Gary Burdette Memorial Challenge. I continue to be impressed with the many offerings that Robert Osburn has put together for us over the years to challenge our model making skills. They have been both diverse and rewarding, and fully in keeping with what the late Gary Burdette encouraged us to do. While I have done numerous laser cut craftsman type structures, this one was a bit different in that it allowed for significant customization of the basic building shape. I personally chose a more conservative approach and used a typical floor plan. I did, however, chose to use the interior kit of crates and boxes for another model so my garage door was installed in the closed position. Otherwise, except for choice of colors, I built the structure pretty close to the instructions. I suspect there will be several modelers that get much more creative.

As I look back on 2025, I did make some progress on the Alleghany & New River Road but nowhere near the amount I had hoped to make. Still I was able to scratch off several items on the "to do list". There are still several weeks to make even more progress. That said several items will carry over to the 2026 list which I have already started.

I did find that creating a list of things that needed to be done on the layout allowed me to both prioritize major tasks and identify low hanging fruit that might not take too much energy and time to complete. There is also the satisfaction of seeing items getting checked off or crossed out when they are complete. I encourage others to create their own list. These lists help to create a measuring stick as well as breaking tasks down into smaller units that can be individually more achievable. Creating the list also gives you time to reflect on which items are most important and which items can perhaps be delayed. They can also help to identify things that you are about to overlook that need to be done before proceeding with something else.

After making the list, the important thing is to actually encourage you to make progress and check off as many things as you can while they are fresh in your mind. Don't think of the list as a New Year's resolution, because we all know those don't work. Think of it as a road map for where you want to go. I think that when you look back in 12 months on 2026, you will be surprised just how far you have come.

I look forward to see you at the December luncheon. Meanwhile, keep modeling.

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.

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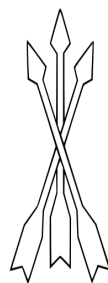
CRUSTY
MOUNTAIN
AND
WILOBY
SPRINGS R.R.

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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

**December 13
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**

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

**April 11 2026
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV**

**May 9, 2026
Location to be determined**