



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

November 2012



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

I started to write this article October 29 but then Sandy had her way and I was without electricity from the next morning until the afternoon of November 1. While our thoughts are with folks north and east of us, keep in mind our members in the Summersville, WV area. While Dennis and Walt and their families and homes are safe, things are really a mess there as we have seen from news reports. It sort of puts our playing with trains into perspective.

The November issue of the *NMRA MAGAZINE* contained an article by NMRA President Charley Getz describing the model railroad museum planned for the California State Railroad Museum. If you do not receive the magazine, don't worry, the article is reprinted elsewhere in this issue. The amount of money to be raised, \$250,000, comes out to about \$13 for each of the 19,000 or so members of the NMRA. In order to encourage Coal Division members to contribute, the officers plan to introduce a motion at the November meeting calling for the Division to match dollar for dollar contributions by Coal Division members, up to that magic \$13 dollars per member. That limit will give us a cost control, please do not think we are giving away all of our assets. Keep in mind that if the members meet the \$250,000 goal an anonymous member will chip in another \$250,000 for a total of \$500,000. Look at your financial position and determine if you can contribute \$13 (or even more) to this fine cause.

The November meeting will be at the train show in Bluefield on November 10. As I note every year, if Dan, Charlie, Clint, and Jack can make the trip to Teays Valley, Portsmouth, and even Marion several time each year, we can head south once per year. Of course, there is the train show which should be an attraction that makes the trip worth the effort.

Finally, thanks to the efforts of Anthony Parrish, the Coal Division has a Facebook page. Click [here](#) to see it or search for "NMRA Coal Division" on Facebook. There is also a link on the home page of the Coal Division web site. Anthony has already posted a number of videos from around the web as well as a number of photos taken at the October Pennsylvania Southern operating session. Given the popularity of social networking, we hope to make announcements of meetings and other events available through Facebook as well as the web site.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

Well, the other day, we took off to the north central part of the state on another big outing. Actually, it might have been a little outing as only Bob and I went up to see what Dennis and Walt had been up to on their respective railroads. The big part came in the form of fun, a fine meal and the friendship we enjoyed together.

The first item of note was somewhat special, especially to Dennis. He told us how he had given an eighty nine year old neighbor a couple of locomotives, track and a power pack following the gentleman's interest in seeing Dennis' pike. Well, a few months later after some orders to Nitro Hobby; he had an approximately 4X8 double track model railroad. The man scratch built pole lines from dowel rod, weed trees, plywood barn, tea (the kind you brew or throw in Boston Harbor), along with numerous other items including Tootsie Toy and Matchbox vehicles for good measure. This was special to Dennis as he had started the ball rolling. For me it was a unique experience to see someone, especially at the age, create something from nothing. This gentleman had no background in the hobby. Here was one man's view of a slice of life built from his personal background, not the pages of a model railroad magazine. I saw something pure, quaint, basic and beautiful. It reminded me of the old Lionel layouts when there was not much available, except dirt, to scenic the line. Everything was from the modeler's imagination and household items. I compare Virgil's

model to the art of Grandma Moses. It is a true look at an American scene from someone who just decided to capture it in three dimensions; well done Virgil.

Next, we went to Dennis' layout to see what improvements he had made to his Reading Lines. He had added a box car side wall, a retaining wall, crossing and some small details. The key feature was a three track yard along the right front of the table. Dennis asked for advice on a couple of things. In particular the independent yard lead since he wanted to set up the yard and operations in order to count time running toward his AP Chief Dispatchers award. With the complete yard, three loops of interconnected track, interchange tracks and a fiddle yard in a display case; operations in a prototype manner are quite possible.

We discussed operations on Frank Ellison's *Delta Lines* of the 40s, 50s and 60s. I first read Frank's article on the "Art of Model Railroading" in the late 60s. Around this time an editor for *Model Railroader* wrote an article about a little 3X5 foot plywood pike in the corner of an apartment he was to visit. The editor was sure this would be a flop. After about four hours of running the editor concluded that prototype operations were indeed possible with a little bit of imagination. Add Frank's "smiles" fast clocks and put together a schedule making up some trains and you are in business

MEETING NOTICE

The November meeting of MCR Division Nine will be held at the Youth Center on Stadium Drive in Bluefield on November 12th at 2:00PM. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the NRHS Pocahontas Chapter annual train show. The contest for November will be non revenue equipment. So bring you "cabeese" plows, MofW cars and whatever for our enjoyment. Also please consider bringing any unwanted or orphan items you have for donation to the raffle. The clinic for November will be enjoying the train show and getting in your Christmas shopping. Please try and make the meeting; it is a long trip for many but well worth your time. Chuck will be among the many dealers at the show and his prices are often very generous. Hope to see you there!

Probably the easiest access for most would be the WV Turnpike and I-77 to exit 1 just before the tunnel at Bluefield WV. Then follow John Nash Blvd to US 460 West. Take 460 west until you hit the WV/VA State line. At the first traffic signal after you enter the State of Virginia; make a right turn onto Leatherwood Lane. You will then come to another traffic signal at a "tee" intersection with College Ave. Make a left turn onto College Ave then immediately prepare to make a right turn onto Stadium Drive. You will see a used car dealership to your right and Bluefield (VA Baptist) College in front of you as you are turning onto Stadium Dr. Follow Stadium Drive to the show.

2013 MID CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

The 2013 Mid Central Region convention will be in Dayton, hosted by Division 3, May 15 to 18. This convention starts Wednesday instead of the usual Thursday and will have an emphasis on operations but not at the expense of other interests. Tony Koester will be leading an operations boot camp and will be the banquet speaker.

There is quite a list of places to visit in the Dayton area including the Museum of the United States Air Force. It's still a bit early to have all tour information available, look for that in the MCR Kingpin which should be out in January. In the meantime, advance registration is available, see the details at www.mcr2013convention.com.

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 do the layout work the Wednesday 10 days before the meeting with distribution Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by the 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.

December	November 26
January	December 31
February	January 28

NMRA InfoNet News

About half of the money needed to meet the "matching gift" to the "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum has been raised. An anonymous donor has offered to put \$250,000 of his own money into the Exhibit if we can raise a matching amount. In addition to NMRA member donations, substantial donations have been made to the exhibit by various manufacturers. No NMRA dues money is being used to fund this project. Watch for an informative article in the November issue of *NMRA Magazine* for more details on the Exhibit and fund raising efforts. *(That article is reprinted in this issue)*

The newly formed NMRA Marketing Department is working with Amtrak stations in major cities to get modular layouts placed there in an effort to raise awareness of our hobby.

The NMRA website is undergoing a facelift and update under the direction of our new IT Director, Ben Sevier, and his web team. Members should see the changes sometime within the coming year.

As part of an effort to improve communications with members, and specifically those who don't receive *NMRA*

Magazine, the NMRA leadership team is discussing adding an "eBulletin" – a short, concise emailed newsletter which will list NMRA news, announcements, and other important information. It won't replace *NMRA Magazine*, but instead will be an adjunct to it and will be available free to those members with email. A proposal will be made to the Board of Directors in February.

The Executive Handbook and By-Laws Committee is currently working diligently to simplify and shorten both of those documents, making it easier to understand the organization and how it's run.

The Winter Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 8-10. All NMRA members are welcome to attend. Times and location will be announced later.

*If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in *NMRA Magazine*.*

-Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director

The Magic of Scale Model Railroading article by NMRA President Charlie Getz

The pages of the *NMRA Magazine* have included letters and comments about the future of our hobby. I know that all of us are concerned about the aging of the hobby and our membership. I'd like to share with you one powerful way to increase our hobby numbers. You can help in that effort and make a difference.

Bob Brown, editor and publisher of the *Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette* and a member of the Howell Day Museum committee of the NMRA, put it best when he said that the only way to promote model railroading is to show the public what model railroading is all about. That is the philosophy behind the Gallery Exhibit that is proposed for the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). The Gallery Exhibit was described in this magazine some years back in the May 2011 issue. I'm indebted to both Bob Brown and Sharon Olsen, who does the graphics for the *Gazette*, for the illustrations used in this article. (*those illustrations have been left out of this reprint to save space - ed*) Let me first start with a brief explanation and a reminder of what the gallery exhibit is all about and then discuss what you can do to make it happen. And believe me, it is crucial to our hobby to make this exhibit happen. The Gallery Exhibit, entitled "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading," is simply an inspirational introduction to our hobby aimed at both the general public and to model railroaders. Occupying the space above the roundhouse entrance at the CSRM, this mezzanine-level gallery provides almost 2,000 square feet of space, which is offered to the NMRA *at no cost*. The initial term is ten years renewable for an additional ten years and perhaps beyond. Again no cost. This is space we could not buy.

The gallery exhibit is broken into three different sections: the south gallery, the west bays, and the north gallery. In the south gallery, immediately adjacent to the very popular and successful Thomas Sefton toy train exhibit, the visitor will be greeted by some of the best in contemporary and historic model building. Large cases will include models, dioramas including one specially constructed by very talented members in Australia, and even sections of famous layouts such as Allen McClelland's Virginian & Ohio. One of *Model Railroader* magazine's project railroads, the HOn3 San Juan Central, would be among the first exhibits visitors will see. The purpose of this gallery is to excite and inspire the public as to what scale model railroading can achieve.

The visitor will then enter the west bays, which will be occupied by exhibits telling the story of scale model railroading from the 1840s through the Great Depression, World War II, the Post-war years, and the brass revolution, and finally the state of the hobby today. One bay will

highlight the importance of books and magazines in the hobby. The north gallery is for visitors who are interested in joining our hobby. There will be contemporary kits and a layout under construction. There will also be information about the NMRA. Finally, the north gallery will contain an interpretive area where videos and hands-on demonstrations are shown to the public. This area is also shared with a children's play area, not part our exhibit, which of course would be train themed.

All in all, this design, which has been approved by both the museum committee of the NMRA and CSRM, offers a good mix on the history and appeal of this hobby. So what are the details about this exhibit? First of all, as I mentioned there is absolutely no rent for this space, which is significant. Further, CSRM has agreed to absorb many of costs of this exhibit including major utility, security, and even advertising.

The California State Railroad Museum is the third most popular tourist attraction in California. Let me repeat that. It is the third most popular tourist attraction in California. It ranks right after Disneyland and Sea World (San Diego). I know you may find that hard to believe, but these are facts that can easily be verified. Last year, more than three million people visited Old Town Sacramento, the location of the CSRM, and 625,000 of them came to the museum. To put those numbers in perspective, the World's Greatest Hobby campaign, which has been very successfully operated by Kalmbach, Walthers, Athearn, Kato, and other leading industry members, has been in existence for almost a decade. It has attracted more than one million visitors over that time. It has done a magnificent job of displaying the hobby to the general public. Yet, those one million visitors represent one and a half years of attendance at CSRM. In other words, in a year and a half, we can reach as many people as WGH has in a decade. Now please understand something important: This exhibit does not replace World's Greatest Hobby! Rather, we see it as complementary to World's Greatest Hobby. After all, World's Greatest Hobby goes to different venues and markets. The Magic of Scale Model Railroading requires a visit to the CSRM.

The CSRM attracts school tours and seniors in large numbers. Both are target audiences for our hobby. More importantly, it is one of the premier railroad museums in the world. I have been fortunate to visit some of the railroad museums and rank CSRM alongside the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum at Strasburg and the British Railway Museum at York, England. Not only is CSRM a popular tourist attraction but it also displays railroads in a positive and professional light. I can think of no better place to explain scale model railroading than the CSRM.

The expense facing the NMRA is the fabrication for the exhibit itself. The contents of the exhibit are already partly on hand, and we have a good idea of what is needed. The fabrication costs are only estimated at this point, but we have a budget of between \$500,000 – \$750,000 for that work. We believe this to be realistic. That may sound like a lot, but for quality casings and graphics, it is very reasonable. But here is the important point: The NMRA will own the cases and contents. We are not giving the exhibit to the CSRM, but placing them as our assets in this space. Further, the cases are designed to be movable and used elsewhere if the exhibit is ever removed. They can thus form the basis for a future museum of scale model railroading.

Attracting more than 600,000 visitors a year to scale model railroading and showing the best of what our hobby offers should be a no-brainer. But I want to increase that attraction by advising you of some additional points. First, through an anonymous NMRA donor, we have a unique opportunity concerning the money we need. That donor has offered to match on a 1:1 basis every dollar raised up to \$250,000. Again let me repeat that: Up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars. In other words, we have one NMRA member who is willing to pledge a quarter of a million dollars if we can raise a quarter of a million dollars from other sources. That gets us automatically to our \$500,000 threshold amount. Secondly, we suggest a concrete pledge for amounts above \$100. If we do not raise the threshold amount needed – the full \$250,000 – within a reasonable amount of time, say six more months, we will not expect you to honor the pledges. We want you to know that the fund raising effort we make is in good faith and is predicated upon success. If we cannot raise enough money to meet our anonymous donor's offer, we will not go forward with the exhibit, which would be a tragedy for both the NMRA and scale model railroading.

Further, you can pledge by email to headquarters at nmrahq@aol.com. Please provide us your name, the amount pledged, any conditions on redeeming the pledge (e.g., monthly or periodic payments), and a physical and email address where we can reach you. Of course, you can mail your pledge to headquarters as well. Or you can request a pledge card from headquarters, and we'll be happy to provide it.

We have the resources and resolve to convert this dream into a world-class exhibit. I can think of no better way of advertising our hobby than the Gallery Exhibit. Further, the secondary effect will be huge. It will once again establish the relevance of both our hobby and the

NMRA to the general public. It will provide articles and information to the media. It will cement our relationship with the state of California and the CSRM, which will pay dividends down the line. The state has been very dedicated to the development of the historic Southern Pacific shops in Old Town Sacramento area. The State is establishing a massive museum of railroad technology in the old SP shops and has identified a small building (small is a relative term), the "blacksmith shop," that they and we envision as a home for a future museum of scale model railroading. Understand —the Gallery Exhibit is not the museum of scale model railroading. It is exactly what its name says — an introduction to scale model railroading.

If the NMRA can meet this challenge and establish this Gallery Exhibit, we will also demonstrate our bona fides to the museum community and continue to fulfill our educational requirements as a non-profit corporation. With an exhibit such as is proposed, it will be difficult for naysayers to point to the NMRA as "irrelevant" to the future of the hobby. After all, the CSRM is partnering with the NMRA. I can think of no other group that offers the same creditability to the CSRM than the NMRA.

But all this will not happen without your assistance. If you ever were inclined to donate to the NMRA, please consider doing so for this purpose. This goes beyond the NMRA. It goes to the future of our hobby and the pride that we take in that hobby. It is our chance to show the world what we have to offer. It would be tragic if we could not meet this challenge. Industry will be partners in this effort and contributions have already been received from industry.

But unless all of us together work toward achieving this goal, it will not happen. We cannot rely solely upon any one segment of our hobby and even nonmembers should be involved. So tell your friends and have them contact us if they need additional information. But more importantly, make that pledge or send in that check, whether it's \$5 or \$5,000. Make sure your donation indicates that it is to be used for the Gallery Exhibit. We long ago decided that no dues money would be spent on this exhibit, and we have honored that pledge. All amounts to be used for this purpose are contributions above and beyond the NMRA's operating expenses.

Please be part of this effort and have pride in knowing that you helped to contribute toward expanding our hobby in most challenging times. I thank you in advance for your help and welcome your comments.

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor



Above you see a shot of me on my qualifying run on Chris Scheick's Forest and Western railroad. Chris's outdoor layout. The **Forrest & Western** takes up his huge backyard and consists of over two thousand feet of 7 1/2 inch gauge track. Included are trestles, fills, a hand powered turntable and a car barn full of cars for the layout. I am on my student run on a battery powered diesel locomotive; but Chris also has several live steam locos for his outdoor layout which he largely scratch built. Chris machines his cylinders and casts his wheels in his own basement machine shop. I would like to report that in spite of being called on too much speed on some of the high trestles; I was qualified as an F&W engineer. The above photo was shot by Chris' wife Connie who was taking time out from preparing us a delicious meal. I grew up in Valley Stream, NY and amazingly enough so did Chris as well as Tom Nelson. Tom is a veterinarian in Lynchburg and an avid model railroader. Chris and Tom walked by my house every day on their way to Valley Stream South High School; yet I did not know them until we met at model railroading op sessions in central Virginia many, many years later. This particular weekend started out with an op session on Bob Burke's layout in Appomattox, VA HO

layout. I started, as usual, on the Riverside Turn; train 403/404 and went on from there for a wonderful day of model railroading. After an op session on the backyard Forrest & Western., following my student trip, we enjoyed a meal prepared by Connie Schieck. After dinner we had a brief op session on Chris' HO gauge Forrest & Western basement division. Chris and Connie offered me the hospitality of their home for the evening which I was glad to accept. The next day was an op session on the Brazos & Pecos RR of Gene Browning. Gene had invited us to participate in the annual B&P livestock rush. Gene loves WV coal railroading but has moved it west to the Texas, New Mexico area. Since that wonderful weekend I participated in the final op session of 2012 on Clint Foster's C&O New River Division. Bob Weinheimer and Gary Burdette were among the crew and we left after a day of wading in the New River and running C&O trains. So, others things may come first; but model railroading is such a wonderful way to relax and get away from reality. I hope my recording of my model railroading activities reflect what you have been doing. Please get your activities to us and we will be glad to incorporate it into this newsletter.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
The Coal Division
Teays Valley, WV
October 13 2012

The October 14, 2012 meeting of Division 9 of the Mid-Central Region was held at West Virginia Hobby and Craft in Teays Valley. It was called to order by Superintendent Bob Weinheimer.

The sign-in sheet was passed around and visitors Bob Lee, Superintendent, from Division 6 and local, prospective member, Gus Drum were introduced.

The Minutes published in the newsletter were approved as written after a motion by John Harris was made and seconded by Larry Richards.

The Treasurers Report was unofficial due to the absence of the clerk, but it was noted we have had no expenditures and there has been on change since the September report.

The Superintendent's Report was submitted by Bob Weinheimer. An update on the health of David Robinette was given and a card for his upcoming birthday was circulated for the members to sign. Bob summarized the Board of Directors meeting held in Columbus. The King Pin is scheduled to arrive soon and all is proceeding for the operations oriented MCR Convention in Dayton this spring. The 2014 National Convention will be in Cleveland, Ohio, thus there will not be a Regional Convention that year. It was announced that the 2015 Regional will be held in Lexington, Ky.

Gary Burdette presented the Assistant Superintendent's Report discussing David Robinette's G Scale model of the Hocking Valley Coal Dock located in the depot of the HV Scenic Railroad and the status of the NMRA Education and Training Committee's work. Also, he presented sample "paste-ups" or "screens" and a site map for the possible use as educational information on the coal division web site.

Travels With Dennis provided us with some information Dennis McGeeney received from our member and Hocking Valley locomotive engineer concerning a summer 2013 outing on the scenic line. Look for more in the newsletter in upcoming issues.

Achievement Program: Frank Koch has indicated to the chair that Dan Kennedy has been approved for Master Builder-Scenery and Tony Puccini for Chief Dispatcher.

Newsletter: Going well. There was one small mistake in

the latest issue.

Clinics: Still need people to sign up. The December clinic will be a visit to Dan Kennedy's steel mill layout near the hobby shop. The January meeting hopes to find our new member Matt Crouch giving the history of the C&O St. Albans Depot, on site!

Membership: John Harris has been busy with a number of important items. First, he had plans for, and will be completing, the Division, a portable backdrop to be used as shows, exhibits, and at our new "clubhouse" at the depot. It will have a beautiful blue banner like the "header" of our web site, black cloth background, and removable 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch panels with photos of layouts, models, and anything else we may wish to display (Send your photos to John in fairly large format.) Black bunting will be on the table to spruce-up displays, pamphlets, the NMRA Magazine, registration forms, etc. See it a Bluefield. Also, he will be contacting old members and those we haven't seen for a while to invite them to join the "new era" at the depot beginning in January.

Facebook: Tony Parrish is starting up Facebook as a bonus to our membership. Send him photos, information, etc.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: Appalachian Model Railroad show will be at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena in Huntington Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Thanksgiving weekend. Also, the Wheeling and Lake Erie RR is rumored to be purchasing the line from Benwood, West Virginia to New Martinsville. The move to the St. Albans depot will be permanent.

Next Meeting: Bluefield, West Virginia (see sheet). Please turn out!

Respectfully submitted by,
 Gary J. Burdette, Assistant Superintendent

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So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

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Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

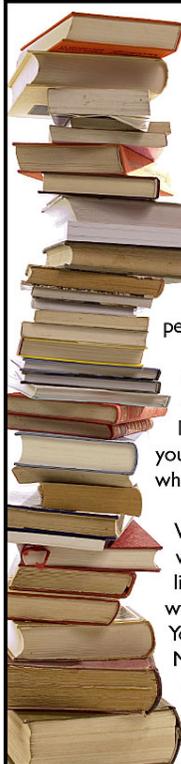
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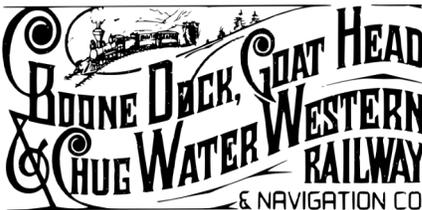


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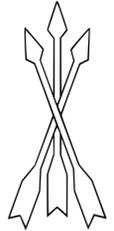
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**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY
THOMAS SUBDIVISION**

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THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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John Harris, Chief Engineer
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

If you received this newsletter 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 to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

November 10
NRHS Pocahontas Chapter Train Show
Bluefield, WV

December 8
West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

January 12
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV

February 9
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV