



# UP THE HOLLER

## Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION Mid Central Region NMRA

November 2014



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### From the Head the Holler By Gary J. Burdette, MMR

Have you ever sat in a meeting in a stupor with “deer-in-headlights” eyes or with your eyes actually closed, perhaps breathing deeply (snoring)? Of course you have. Many meetings are like that, especially after lunch.

Jerry Doyle graciously filled in for me at the recent Mid-Central Region Board of Directors meeting. He gave my quarterly report more from what we have been talking about than from the actual document. As a group, we have continued to evolve and share ideas. This presentation was after a nice lunch but I won’t accuse anyone of napping. I do think they were caught a little off guard.

Jerry first noticed some of the guys perk up when Merlyn, our president, inquired about our M.A.D.D program. While not totally original (it is a show-and-tell, after all), it is developing into a pretty interesting offering of ideas, tips, and projects from several of our members. A number of you have been bringing in things to see and talk about.

At Portsmouth, the members began to mill around Mark’s switch machine display and the clinic sort of happened. Mark showed the different types and how he sets things up. As that one wound down, we transitioned into Dick Briggs’ clinic and enjoyed some of the various paints, etc. he used to decorate his scenery. He passed things around. Both were hands-on, how I did it presentations.

During the October meeting I brought in some inexpensive, r-t-r models and a couple of nicer kits as some examples that might be used to build some open loads. I figured this could be something to look at and to complement our monthly contest. (I didn’t want to just talk about it, but to participate in MADD.). Well, Bob Osburn was MADD, too. He brought in a couple of animations made from a switch machine and a relay. A car stop was built for Bob’s Pennsylvania Southern branch-line bridge and the swinging gate was for one of Mark’s industries. Both men had mentioned a need for such items, so Bob built them. Finally, Mark Maynard really got MADD as he took us into his “Car Shops” and showed us how to fix, fine tune, and adjust a variety of types of rolling stock to make our railroads run smoothly and flawlessly. He had dozens of examples sitting out and being passed around, along with many parts and supplies for us to see. We were all MADD at the end of the meeting.

When Jerry noted that we conduct our monthly meetings at the old St. Albans C&O depot, about 24 feet from the CSX mainline, eyes popped open, too. Perhaps those fellows recognized the significance of this for model railroaders. I know we certainly enjoy meeting there. Saturday I listed some of the things we have done to “earn our keep,” but I’d like us to consider contributing to her upkeep in other ways.

For now, see you in Bluefield.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

**Dan Mulhearn, Asst. Supt.**

Here we are, enjoying a beautiful fall season. Just a little more yard work and it is working in the basement time. I am hoping to get started on the joint N&W, L&N yard at Norton, VA. I need to figure how to integrate the staging yard and mine branch that is completed into my overall plan. So, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow; I will be downstairs.

I want to put on my clinic chairman hat and encourage you to consider doing a clinic. There is such a wealth of model experience in our Division which can be tapped. Everyone has some special knowledge or idea which can be shared to the betterment of everyone's modeling. We will be glad to assist you in preparing your clinic; let us hear your ideas.

Last weekend was the first of the four New River Train excursions in to Hinton. My plan was to photograph the train from the Highway 20 bridge over the New River as it arrived at Hinton. It was a kind of gray and gloomy day so I didn't bother. Then it turned out the lead loco on the train was the Amtrak Veteran's unit. I should have gone. Maybe this coming weekend they will use the same lashup.

Due to a shortage of operators, Clint Foster cancelled his last C&O New River op session for the year. I was looking forward to putting on my waders and standing in the New for the last time this year. Clint, we are looking forward to next year.

## CONTEST REPORT

October's Contest:

The category was Open Loads.

The five entries are shown at the front of the table in the photograph. From the top: Gary Burdette brought in a well flat car with a bridge girder load and a logging flat car with removable log loads. Dave Stout had removable coal loads for Bethgons and a weathered gondola with a realistic scrap load. Paul Lapointe's model was a depressed center flat car with a transformer load.

The models at the back of the table were brought in by Gary to illustrate the variety of open loads possible.

First place went to the transformer load and second place was a tie between Dave and Gary's models.

Next Month:

November's meeting is at the Bluefield Train Show. The contest category will be Vehicles.



## RAFFLE REPORT

**Paul Lapointe**

October's meeting was back at the C&O Depot so the raffle took place. It was unique because it was all train books and still took in \$46 dollars.

We'll skip the raffle when the Division meets in Bluefield

next month. But, it'll be back in December when we return to St. Albans.

As always, we gladly accept donations for future raffles.

## MY WORD

### Bob Weinheimer, Editor

I played hooky and went to the Cincinnati Division train show instead of the Coal Division meeting in October. As always I found some deals I could not pass up. The real reason for going, however, is to see lots of friends. I have met quite a few members as a Mid-Central Region officer and it always great to get a chance to talk to them in a relaxed atmosphere.

While having fun in Cincinnati I see from the minutes and from a couple of emails I received that there was trouble with the link to the newsletter in the email announcing its posting. I need to explore that issue but if you have trouble in the future, please go to [www.coaldivision.org](http://www.coaldivision.org) and click on the link on that page. Of course, if you have trouble getting to this newsletter, you might not see that piece of sage advice.

I spent the following weekend at the Mid Eastern Region's convention in Hagerstown, MD. I had been approached back in the spring about giving a clinic or two; I quickly agreed to do so. As with the train show, I had the opportunity to renew many acquaintances. I attended the board meeting and was invited to a meeting of division superintendents. The outgoing MER president even gave

me a few minutes at the dessert program to promote my candidacy for the NMRA Board of Directors.

They did something very interesting. Did you notice that I mentioned the dessert program in the last paragraph? Since the hotel apparently had no minimum requirement for food and beverage events, they actually skipped the full banquet. Each attendee was on his or her own for dinner but we all convened around 7 for dessert followed by the usual post dinner sorts of events. Of note was that Dennis Vacarro of MCR Division 2 (Pittsburgh and environs) won the contest for steam engines as well as a couple of other special awards for his work.

MER's next convention is in Mount Laurel, New Jersey but in 2016 they plan to meet in Durham, North Carolina. That's close enough think about attending!

While discussing another region's convention I don't want anybody to forget about the upcoming MCR convention in Lexington. The planners are working hard and online registration should be available any day now. The KingPin (MCR newsletter) will be sent in early January by snail mail to all members and will include registration forms for those who may be reluctant to register online.

## MEETING NOTICE

The November meeting of MCR Division Nine will be held at the Bluefield Youth Center on Stadium Drive in Bluefield on November 8th at 2:00PM. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the NRHS Pocahontas Chapter annual train show. The contest for November will be vehicles built for use on a model railroad. 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.

## 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	December 1
January	December 15
February	February 2
March	March 2
April	March 30

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot  
St Albans, WV  
October 11, 2014  
Minutes

A welcome and introduction was extended to all sixteen of you who braved the cloudy, damp weather (and homecoming for some) to attend our monthly meeting.

The Super stepped in to give several reports.

The clerk, who was absent, gave the Treasurer's Report to the Super, via phone, stating that finances remain the same. A motion was called for and made by Mark and seconded by Nathan to approve both the August and September minutes. The motion passed.

The new campaign, "member -get -a- member," is being promoted by the NMRA and the COHS. This popular idea is a good one. We have done several projects around the depot which were stated "fyi." The latest was a changeable schedule sign in the office window that will inform the public of events and may bring in some new members..

The Assistant was absent but his invitation to the membership to use him to facilitate things you'd like to see happen at the division level was restated.

An AP Certificate for Scenery was presented to Paul Lapointe. It was noted that a judge was "tricked" by the mirror in the back of the, apparently, very deep mine.

In the absence of the Newsletter Chair, we called for articles and noted that several could not open the letter from the link. That information will be forwarded to the chair. Also, Mark Maynard and Tony Puccini discussed the renewal of the old "Meet the modeler" series of articles that once appeared in the newsletter. Mark noted that they could be placed on the web site and any new activities on the railroad (such as Bob's new branch on the PS) could be reported in "Up the Holler" and noted on the web to get people to keep coming back to see "What's next?"

Clinics were discussed as part of our MADD proposal as an informal presentation and as part of the NMRA Education (EduTrain) Committee's "standard" format. We will try to get an example of the latter so we may be in compliance should our clinicians wish to prepare presentations which may be used on a national level. Consider doing some type of show-and-tell or clinic.

Our Membership Chair noted that we were maintaining the 61 member level. He has contacted a couple of guys about renewal. Also, he noted we have not signed up anyone at our booth in Bluefield. Ideas to get new members (as noted above) are difficult to develop.

The Raffle Chair asked for continued donations to keep things going. This month was an "all-book" raffle.

**Old Business:** Proposed changes to the constitution, to streamline election procedures, are still on review. Bill noted we should publish these in the NL and have hard copies for those without a computer so a 90-day period could be officially observed. We will plan for this.

**New Business:** brought only mention that our group to consider adopting the Ashland HO-scale architectural model which may be donated by the COHS to be displayed at the St Albans depot. This would involve our cleaning and maintaining it periodically. No motion was presented as the transfer process is not yet completed.

Announcements were made concerning the upcoming New River Train and the Parkersburg Train Show. A five foot long train display case made from a plastic shelf and a display with prototype photo and 3-D model on a plaque were shown. These may be used as possible items for the educational interpretive goals of the division and SACCOMM, at the depot, showing types and uses of rail cars. Dave Stout mentioned it might be nice to set up visits to several of the layouts in the area. He and I had talked before, so I had already made some inquiries. Many of the guys are willing, so we may have some tours in March.

Upcoming monthly meetings were announced.

Nathan moved and Dale seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The contest was open loads. Several examples of kits and r-t-r items were on display for viewing and discussion. The actual contest saw Paul Lapoint with a landslide victory for a nice depressed center flat with huge transformer load. Dave Stout's neat steel load tied for second with Gary's log load.

The "all-book" raffle was a success fun-wise (with Dennis winning 3) and monetarily (with a \$46.00 total received).

A mini-clinic was given by Bob Osburn as he showed us how to build an automated car stop and swinging industrial gates using switch machines and relays. Then, the big clinic was presented by Mark Maynard as he opened his "car shops" giving us many ideas and tips on how to keep all types of rolling stock running smoothly.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gary Burdette, Superintendent

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer

As I noted elsewhere in this issue, I missed the October meeting and the opportunity to present Paul Lapointe with his Master Builder—Scenery certificate. If you have seen Paul's layout you know it was not at all difficult for the judges to decide he had earned this one. Gary Burdette presented the certificate to Paul in my absence and Tony Puccini took the accompanying photograph. Thanks to Gary and Tony for documenting the event. I hope to have another certificate for Paul by the November meeting as his Association Volunteer certificate has been approved but not yet delivered to me for presentation. Dan Mulhearn needs to gather the appropriate signatures, somehow we failed to do that properly when we looked over his work toward his Electrical Engineer certificate on Walt Mycoff's layout. Once we get that submitted I will look forward to presenting him with his certificate.

Things have slowed a bit in our AP efforts. Have you

done anything worthy of merit and recognition? If you are uncertain of just what is needed talk to me or go to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and look through the Achievement Pro-



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## **PORTLAND DAYLIGHT EXPRESS**

**NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION**



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**August 23 – 29, 2015**

Hosted by the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club, who also brought you the 1994 NMRA National.

The event is to be held at the Doubletree Hotel at Lloyd Center, near downtown Portland.

Bring the family to explore and enjoy the Great Pacific Northwest.

Check out our website  
<http://www.nmra2015portland.org/>  
 and follow us on Facebook.  
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**NMRA National Convention**  
**Portland 2015**  
**Portland Daylight Express**

80<sup>th</sup> NMRA National convention

Dates of event: August 23 – 29, 2015

Location:

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Portland at Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, Oregon 97232

National Train Show: August 28 – 30, 2015

Location:

Portland Expo Center 2060 N Marine Drive, Portland, Oregon 97217

**Convention features:**

Clinics:

Six Clinic rooms with seven sessions per day provides more than 200 clinic sessions and more than 125 topics.

Modeling with the Masters:

Master Model Railroaders lead several sessions of 28 each, guiding participants in constructing a project, which they can take home.

Contests:

The usual NMRA National Model, Photography and Craft contests offer opportunity for you to have your best creations evaluated against your peers.

Auction:

The Silent Auction attracts all kinds of hobby items including models, books, prototype historical gems. We expect about 3000 lots. Following Cleveland's lead in 2014 we plan to offer early online registration of lots for sale. It saves time on the day.

Tours:

We have a great selection of Prototype, Industry, General Interest and Layout tours. Many of these facilities are rarely open for public visitation.

Non-Rail:

A full schedule of activities and tours, including a lunch, is planned for the non-rail family member.

**Editor's Note:** Yes, Portland is a long way from the Coal Division but it is a very beautiful city that I have had the opportunity to see while on a couple of business trips. Consider combining the convention with a visit to other locations in and around Oregon and Washington.

**Now that Up The Holler is a monthly publication, your Pike Ad support is much more important. If you don't already have an ad, please consider buying one. We can help with the art work if necessary.**



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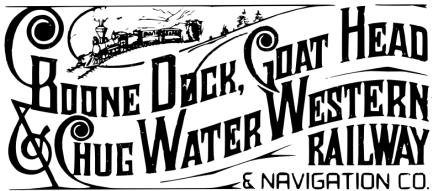


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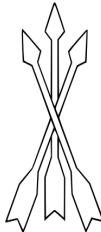


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## Upcoming Coal Division Events

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@coaldvision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

**November 8  
Bluefield, WV**

**December 13  
St. Albans Depot  
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue  
St. Albans, WV**

**January 10  
St. Albans Depot  
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue  
St. Albans, WV**

**February 14  
St. Albans Depot  
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue  
St. Albans, WV**