



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC
July 2018



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

Charles Krauthammer, the brilliant commentator and columnist passed away recently. The reason I bring this up is that in the coverage of his passing he had made some interesting comments on life. It was his feeling that life was so full of turmoil and chaos that late on the sixth day God created baseball to allow us some relaxation. It struck me immediately that the term baseball could well be replaced by model railroading. During my 33 years in law enforcement and my subsequent 12 years as a paramedic, I can't tell you how many times my hobby came to the rescue after a stressful day. It doesn't matter what you do: work on a model, do research on your favorite prototype, or share with friends, it's all good. Speaking of friends, I have made so many friends over the years they can not be counted. In the world of politics and culture I know some of those good friends don't think as I do. Most of them, I have no idea what they think along those lines, nor do I care. I respect them all and I am grateful for the insight and the knowledge they have imparted to me in pursuit of the greatest hobby in the world.

Some of the things I gleaned from the MCR board meeting at the recent convention is that we need to have two way communication between the National, Regional, and Division. Please be sure your current e mail information is on file. The NMRA does not share or sell your e mail information or other personal information with any other entities. Please be aware of the Partnership Program where substantial discounts are available to member from major manufacturers. A team of NMRA Board members and the Marketing Consultant worked very hard on setting up this benefit, it is a shame more people are not taking advantage. We should also be aware that National will assist us up to \$50.00 on membership retention programs such as make and take workshops, mentor programs, etc.

I intend to keep my focus on HO, but I do have my T-Trak module. As stated last month, it seems to be catching fire in the Region. My plan will require one more module to accomplish what I envision: a locomotive service area. I look forward to what we can accomplish together.

Your Division officers remain interested in your input. What would like to see done? What direction would like us to take?

I will not be at our July event. Toni Lynn will be celebrating her birthday in Batavia, NY as is her tradition. I hope all enjoy the day, don't overeat, and continue to share in our wonderful hobby.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bob Osburn Assistant Superintendent

It seems that every time we turn around technology has changed our modeling world. The advances in miniature circuitry, lighting, sound systems, and micro manufacturing has affected us most. Probably the most significant advancement has been the development of Digital Command Control (DCC). I fought DCC for several years and for many different reasons. First, what kind of equipment should I purchase? Second, already having a large investment in engines and not knowing if I had the ability to convert them to DCC was a big question. Third, to purchase new engines would be a major hit on my hobby budget. Fourth, I am very intimidated with the prospect of programming DCC equipment. And fifth, the development of peripheral accessories to supplement DCC operations seemed overwhelming.

Well, I have made the switch to DCC and couldn't be happier. Just the opportunity to run multiple engines without isolated blocks, having engines that run much better, not having to clean the track as often, and the simplified wiring of a layout is well worth the effort of changing to DCC.

I know many of you in Division 9 have a similar issue with converting to DCC so this is how I decided to proceed; maybe it will work for you. I polled other members as to what equipment they were using and decided to go with their recommendations, assured if I needed help they would be there for guidance. I inventoried the engines I had and found that many could be converted to DCC

with little or no problems. The internet was really a big help in this process. It seemed every engine I researched had tutorials showing how to do the conversion and how difficult it would be. The remaining engines (mostly steam) I decided to sell. I figured for every three I sold I could buy a new DCC equipped one. As for the budget issue, maybe one or two new engines a year would slowly build up my motive fleet. As for the programming issue, I have found I can run my engines with only minor initial changes (the address code). The advanced features I don't really need at this time and can either get help later or learn as I go. As for the accessory decoders, I'll stay away from those for a while until I see a need for them or feel more comfortable working with that type of equipment. DCC is a learning process just like the cell phone and TV remote and, yes, I did have initial problems with them! Remember, a lot of knowledge is available within Division 9 and help is there if you only ask.

Our annual Picnic on the Platform is scheduled for the July meeting. This is always a great success and enjoyed by all. A sign-up slip was passed around at the June meeting for items needed for the picnic. Thanks to everyone who signed up for something or donated money for drinks and hamburgers. If you signed up for something and cannot make it to the picnic, please let us know in advance so we can reassign the item. If you were not at the June meeting and plan to attend the picnic, desserts or covered dishes are always welcome.

UPCOMING CLINICS

Bob Osburn, Clinic Manager

David Oliverio and Bob Weinheimer presented the June clinic on the use of computer aided design software for model railroad planning. Wow! What a wonderful insight on what is available. The two different approaches, one being sort of straight forward and the other being a little more complicated, really demonstrated the two extremes of software model railroad planning available. We really enjoyed the clinic, thanks to David and Bob.

The July clinic will be presented jointly by Tom Harris and Mark Maynard. They will demonstrate how to produce cloud formations for our backdrops and it will

include some hands-on participation.

Time for the MADD session will be limited at the July meeting because of the picnic, but remember the MADD session is a time for us to discuss, display, ask questions, and solve modeling projects as a group.

The Company Store will be open for the July meeting. If you have something to sell, please bring and add to the collection. I know there will be some very nice N-Scale logging cars and Kato accessories available for sale. Stickers will be available to mark your item with name and asking price—10% of a sell will go into the division coffers.



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
"Picnic on the Platform"

Saturday July 14, 2018

11:00 - Depot open

Set up and view MADD displays related to structures,
gather on platform

View contest entries, contest is structures

Buy raffle tickets, etc.

Socialize

12:30 - Lunch

1:00 - Social time.

2:00 - Superintendent's Briefing

2:30 - Raffle, Contest Results

3:00 - Clinic: Tom Harris and Mark Maynard will demonstrate
cloud painting techniques

Post Meeting: T-Trak participants will gather for their
monthly updates.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
June 9, 2018
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Dan Mulhearn at 1:57 p.m.

Next month: Structures.

Members introduced themselves. There were several guests at the meeting.

Clinic

Today's Clinic – Computerized track planning.
July – Mark Maynard – Clouds
September – Mark Maynard's
October – Jesse Smith "An Engineer's View."

Division Clerk Report

May Minutes approved
Treasury Balance is \$8,579.35 recent expenditures:
\$321.62 for tables for the depot.
Pike Ads \$10
Raffle Revenue \$61
Company Store Revenue \$0

Librarian

The library collection is available for check out today.

Raffle

Tom noted we have a particularly good selection of items today.

Superintendent Report

Dan reported on his experience at the Cincinnati Convention. He spent a lot of time judging contests. He recommended everyone try attending a region convention, they are affordable and are also great fun.

Old Business

None.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn reminded everyone about the July picnic. A sign-up sheet is being circulated for what members will bring. He reported good response on the Division T-Trak program. He will be illustrating some basics during the MADD session. A club is forming in Morehead, Kentucky. We have been invited to bring our modules for a show at the old C&O depot in August.

New Business

Bob Osburn passed around a sign-up sheet for items to bring for the July picnic.

Announcements

The July meeting will be our annual picnic at the depot.
There will be a show at Morehead, Kentucky August 25.
Division 6 will be meeting at the depot in Marion, Ohio.
Jerry Doyle updated the group on depot work.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer reported that we will have great articles for the next newsletter. Mark Maynard will have a story on a kitbashed structure and an update on his layout.

Future Meetings:

July 14 St Albans Depot
August 11 St Albans Depot
September 8 Mark Maynard's Portsmouth, Ohio

Achievement Program

Paul LaPointe received a certificate for serving as MCR contest chair.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Membership

John will be ordering name tags soon. Dan Mulhearn suggested sending post cards to people listed on the inactive list.

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

Contest

Today's contest is Non-Revenue Equipment.
The listing of contests for the rest of the year was in the last newsletter.

CONTEST

Photos by Bob Weinheimer

The June contest was non revenue equipment excluding cabooses. Mark Maynard's three entries were the only entries. Mark had done some light kitbashing, painting, lettering, and weathering and earned his spot as winner of all three places. Congratulations to Mark!

The July contest is structures, this can include buildings, bridges, or just about any other item along those lines.





In his role as MCR President, Bob Weinheimer presents Paul Lapointe with a certificate thanking him for serving as MCR contest manager. Photo by Jerry Doyle

The following MCR Officer positions are open for election in 2019:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

The current Vice President is term limited and is ineligible to be a candidate for that position in the 2019 election. The current President, Secretary, and Treasurer are eligible to be candidates for their current positions in the 2019 election. Any MCR member in good standing who wishes to be considered for candidacy for one of these positions should send a notice of their interest to nominations@midcentral-region-nmra.org

Thank You.

MCR 2019 election Nominating Committee
Bob Shreve
Bob Belt
Jim DiPaola

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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 start the layout work the Monday 12 days before the meeting. This allows a day of review by the officers and a proofreader before the electronic version is issued, usually on Wednesday. The paper version is mailed Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by that

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

August	July 27
September	August 27
October	September 28

Scenery Project On The CM&WS
Mark Maynard
President
CM&WS Ry.

Beginning in March 2018, we shut down operations on the CM&WS for some much needed scenery work. These are some of the new scenes that can be viewed by those who attend this years cookout meeting at my home. Just as a informational note, Mark Rooney and I both used insulating foam board in the construction of our scenes.

It was our first time using this medium and we both thought “ Why have we not tried this before?” It was fun and easy to work with and accepted the plaster cloth outer shell very well. That’s about it for now, see you at one of the next meetings or at least in September.



In this photo, a new wall of hills and clouds have been added, as well as some three dimensional scenery including rocks, trees and ground cover.



This photo is of the left side of the room, a locale that I have been seriously avoiding because of the perceived difficulty of trying to make the window opening “disappear”. I finally gave in and came up with the scene you see here. It still requires more ground cover and a few more trees, but you can get an idea of the general appearance.

You can also see a new major feature, the TOP (Trans Ohio Pipeline). It will be installed from the window opening over to the open area to the right of the yard office, spanning the entire width of Wiloby Yard. The bridgework and pipeline has 204 parts, most of which were all patterned and copied to fit. It will top out at around 250 when completely finished and installed. So far the span has eaten up about twenty-two hours and the window scene comes in at around twenty-five hours, not counting tree manufacturing.



This photo is on the right as you enter the main room. Mark Rooney was in charge of this section. The entire hill is removable to facilitate track cleaning and derailment pick-up. The flat area in front of the retaining wall is the newly developed pipe yard for MP3 (Monaghan Plumbing, Platform, and Pipeline supply). When finished, it will be filled with several different stacks of various sized pipe, and pipe racks. Construction here, so far, has eaten up over twenty hours of labor.



Finally, this photo shows the project we assigned to Coal Division member Dan Gross, just because he hates doing scenery. He has sat patiently and constructed the massively long tie retaining wall that you see. It represents about seventeen hours of work and will top twenty by the time it is finished.

COAL DIVISION T-TRAK SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Sam Delauter

For many modelers, summer puts a damper on the amount of modeling time available. I hope everyone has had a chance to get some work done on the projects they have on their work bench. I say this because fall train shows are fast approaching. I'm sure that I am not alone in saying that I have lots work to do between now and the fall shows.

As discussed at the last T-Trak meeting, there is a lot of work to do. First on the docket is to bring our modules to the July meeting. Please bring your module and a few trains to run. This will be the first time we have had the modules together and running. One of the reasons we will be putting the modules together is to test them is for the upcoming shows, the first of which will be in Morehead, KY on August 25th. We will also be discussing plans for the Morehead show and other upcoming shows at this meeting. Please be thinking about attending the Morehead show so that we can make plans at the meeting as to who and which modules are going.

At the last meeting we mentioned that we may want to revise the standards for our modules. These may be outdated now since we have started talking about taking the modules to other shows instead of using them as a standalone layout. The plan to use them as a standalone layout was the original plan for the group but the group has grown and changed a lot since. Since we have changed direction, it may be time to revise them or get rid of them all together. As per the original standards, I am still going to offer ballast free to the group for those that would like to ballast their track. I will have it on hand at the July meeting.

NMRA Division 9 T-Trak Special Interest Group Original Standards Membership

- Must be member of NMRA
- Each member must own or build a module with within a period of three months.
- Exemptions will be made on an individual basis
- Will meet after monthly Division 9 meeting

Standards for Modules

- The standard module will be Masterpiece Modules
- Era will be 1950 to early 70s
- Module will be finished with black paint on visible wooden parts
- Each module must have at least one piece of Kato Uni-track at all mainline connections
- All main line switches must be Peco Code 80 Electro-frog
- Track on sidings and yards can be of any code as long as it does not affect the mainline
- Ballast will be Arizona Rock and Mineral Pennsylvania Grey and Southern Pacific/Union Pacific Cinder
- Wiring standards will follow the NMRA 2011 NTrak standards
- NCE will be the standard DCC system but one main line will have the option of being DC

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

This issue is one of our larger issues, it looks like it will end up with 14 pages. Thanks go to Mark Maynard for a nice article about scenery on his layout, we now know what to look for when we have our September gathering in Portsmouth.

Sam is also keeping our noses to the grindstone on T-Trak. The Morehead, KY event will be here before we know it. I know I will have to review my plans for the next ten days so I can meet Sam's deadline for an operable module.

Sam also notes that summer can draw us away from modeling but the recent heat has been more like winter with more of my time indoors. What started as the idea of working on one model has turned into an effort to seri-

ously cut into the backlog of car projects. The shelf with unbuilt kits will look a little emptier at the next operating session.

Speaking of operating sessions, the next Pennsylvania Southern session will be July 12. There is also a Grafton and Greenbrier session Saturday July 7.

The next big thing on my calendar is the Kansas City NMRA National Convention. I'm looking forward to presenting three clinics Monday morning and again Thursday morning, the LDSIG self guided tour Wednesday, the train show Friday and Saturday, and much more.

Well, there's not much room for me in this issue so I'll see you at the picnic.

MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST 2018 SCHEDULE

January	Modeler's Choice	September	Photo, Model or Prototype
February	Steam Locomotives	October	Open Loads (flats, gondolas, hoppers)
March	Locomotives Other Than Steam	November	Passenger Cars
April	Cabooses	December	Second Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Challenge. Details and kick off in October
May	Anything Steel Related		
June	Non Revenue Except Cabooses		
July	Structures		
August	Freight Cars		

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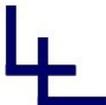


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Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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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.

July 14
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West Portsmouth, OH

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