



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

August 2020

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER Bob Osburn, Superintendent

IN THIS ISSUE

Head of the Holler

Contact List

Meeting Agenda

Virtual Meeting Details

From the Office Down the Hall

Meeting Minutes

Contest

Out of the Holler

Editor's Comments

Pike Ads

Upcoming Meetings

Normally, August would find us having our annual Picnic on the Platform at the St Albans Depot. Well, this year certainly hasn't been normal! I have always enjoyed this particular meeting because of the great member turnout, the outdoor clinic, and lots of good food; but again this August finds us meeting virtually.

We now have several virtual meetings under our belt and each one shows improvement. 1 Each meeting we gain a few more attendees and come up with new ideas to make the meetings better. I would like to thank those who have reached out to other members. You 2 have made a difference by answering questions and explaining the process of attending the Zoom meetings to those who have not been able to participate but we still have some work 2 to do.

The July meeting found us having some time to socialize prior to the business session, 3 Committee Chair reports, open discussions, and a great layout tour of David Oliverio's railroad under construction. It was also decided to add an additional Zoom Bull Session 3 per month to get more members on board. This first *Out of the Holler* Division 9 Bull Session on the evening of July 16th was a great success. It allowed modelers from several of 5 the MCR divisions and non-NMRA modelers to join in on a very informative discussion of what we were working on and modeling ideas in general. Thanks, Jerry Doyle for organizing and to Bob Weinheimer for getting the information out for this to be successful. We 6 will continue to have these types of activities in the future.

As Superintendent of Division 9, I have been getting a lot of emails containing division 7 newsletters with invitations to attend virtual meetings and virtual bull sessions from other MCR divisions. I am trying to look thru as many newsletters as I can and attend as many 8 virtual sessions as time allows. At first I was hesitant to join in on other venues beside our own, but I have become more comfortable after getting my feet wet. It's time to realize 9 times are changing and we need to use the tools available to us. I can see a lot of positives from this change: new friends, new ideas, and better communication and cooperation between other divisions of the Mid Central Region. 10

Another of our favorite outings our annual September meeting, "Ride the Crusty" at Mark Maynard's is another victim of COVID-19. At this time, he has decided that in the interest of safety this event will be cancelled. Mark and his crew have been busy working on scenery this spring and summer and were excited for us to see what has been accomplished. He has offered to give us a virtual tour of the layout during the September meeting. Mark suggested we all bring barbecues and baked beans to the virtual meeting.

Hope to see you August 8th.

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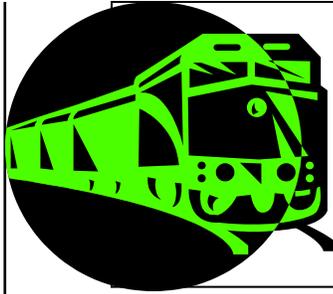
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Upcoming Coal Division Monthly Railfun Events

Saturday August 8

1 PM

Virtual Division Membership Meeting

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Brief overview of what Zoom is (Jerry Doyle)**
- **Approval of Minutes from May meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Committee Chairs Reports**
- **Open Discussion/Questions (One at a time please)**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Clinic by Jerry Doyle: Lessons Learned on the Grafton & Greenbrier**

Next Event

Saturday September 12

At the Depot, or Zoom, or Both?

AUGUST VIRTUAL DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jerry Doyle

We've all been doing our part for COVID-19 isolation measures. This means we won't be meeting in person for several months but there is another way to stay connected.

Our August meeting will be held remotely using Zoom which is very easy to use. You can use a laptop (provided it has a webcam), tablet, or smart phone. Just use the link provided below. You'll be prompted on how to connect with your particular device. You can also join

with a voice-only connection by calling one of the numbers listed.

We are planning to conduct a short business meeting followed by show-and-tell where you can show everyone what you've been working on. There will also be a railroad related clinic and possibly more.

Our meeting will be Saturday August 8 at our regular time of 1 p.m.

Gerald Doyle is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91745750423>

Meeting ID: 917 4575 0423

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,91745750423# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,91745750423# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ab9Zr5DWVc>

First Time Users

- On a computer: The **FIRST TIME** you open a Zoom meeting link you will be asked to download a small Zoom application file. Follow all the typical steps and allow anything requested by the app as it installs.
- On a smart phone or tablet: **BEFORE** you open the Zoom link, go to the app store and download the Zoom Cloud Meetings app from Meet Happy (the app publisher).

To join a Zoom meeting:

- See the meeting invitation above
- Open that link 10 minutes prior to the meeting
- Accept any requests for video and/or microphone
- **MUTE** your microphone

Other pointers

- Make sure your connection is strong
- If you have a weak connection, disconnect other devices from your home network
- For your first time, don't wait until the last minute to join
- Use the **Chat** button to view and make comments or post questions
- Click the **Invite** button to send meeting information to others
- If everything freezes, click **Leave Meeting** and rejoin using the original invitation
- You do not need to create a Zoom account to participate in a Zoom meeting

Thanks to Paul Downs of MCR Division 8 for these tips.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, incoming Assistant Superintendent

I don't know how everyone else works on their models, but I try to get as many done as quickly as I can. I should probably give a little bit of clarification on that last comment. What I really meant to say is that I have the intention to get them done in that manner but what really happens is I tend to do a lot of research beforehand and then take my time building the model. This results in a couple of things. Not only do I spend a lot of time prior to starting the model, I also spend more time than is listed on the package advising how long the model will take to build. The quicker I can build it the better, but I would rather take my time and give it the attention required to build a quality model. Due to taking my time, I feel that I lose interest in many of the models that I work on and put them away in some state of completion. I don't see this as a bad thing as I eventually get back to the model. This is sometimes years later. However, don't fret if you're like me, in my opinion the most important thing in this hobby is to have fun or have an escape from the rigors of daily life. If I feel that I have to get something done, I don't have as much fun and tire of the model. However the exception to this is the push to finish projects before a show.

A couple of instances of my procrastination of working on models are my Pennsylvania G22b gondola and my Erie Stillwell combine that were mentioned in earlier issues of this newsletter. As mentioned before, the G22b is currently assembled and primed. I am waiting for decals for it. The decals are out of print but there may be a chance that they will be reprinted, there is someone currently working on doing that. As for the Stillwell, it is waiting to be weathered. I tend not to weather one or two cars at a time, I do several cars in one evening. I don't like to have to do the clean up from the weathering chalks for just a couple cars so I do at least 15 cars in a session. These cars are both practically done but will wait to be completed and that's OK with me.

Another good example of getting back to a project is my Z scale layout. Those who remember my last Z scale article will remember that I had much of the foam in place to make the mountains and had all of the mainline track laid and tested. Until recently I had not done any more work to it. I started to work on the side of the layout which will be almost all scenery, I finished the basic land forms for the mountain and the river. While I was rather happy with how it turned out, I realized that I had overlooked a crucial part of the construction. I used Wood-

land Scenics risers to raise the track so that it sat above the river. I had not sealed the gaps in the foam. I tried to fill it with plaster but made quite a mess on my track and was unable to clean the track with it still attached to the layout. I had to take the track back and will hopefully not have to replace much of the track. In retrospect, I was unhappy with the track but by relaying the track, I'll be able to get the track closer to how I had planned it when it was laid. Although this was a setback, I think it will wield a better product in the end.

My point on these models and the Z scale layout is that it is OK not finish projects. I don't mean that I'm happy not finishing projects, I just mean that it all does not have to be finished right away. I don't like to feel like I have to finish something so I often don't until a later date.

As I write this article I'm watching the Monty Python, Almost the Truth documentary. To quote The Python, "Now for something completely different". Although train shows have been canceled for the foreseeable future, there is something interesting to come of it. At the national train show, there is a large T-TRAK layout put together every year. Since the national train show did not happen this year, the organizers are doing a virtual layout. Anyone interested in participating can email a picture of their module so that it can be included. There will be a contest, although they have not said what the criteria for said contest is. There will be prizes from Kato and participation plaques will be sent out by Jacksonville Terminal. As of this writing there are currently close to 300 modules and about 75 contributors. I am including a link to the slideshow. Although not an actual train show, hopefully the virtual layout helps fill that void. <https://nationaltraklayout.com/2020-virtual-layout>

Lastly, I have to say that although not the same as an actual meeting, I have to say that I have been enjoying our Zoom meetings. Our July 16th Bull Session was no different. If you have not been involved in either, you are missing out. If you need help in joining in, please let someone know. Zoom is easy to use and easy to get setup on. If anyone needs help, I or any of our other members would be glad to help. I hope to see everyone at our August 8 meeting and the August 30 Bull Session. I hope everyone is enjoying the extra time we all have to model.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

**Virtual Meeting
Using Zoom
July 11, 2020
Minutes**

Members caught up with everyone's railroad projects and technology challenges. There was some discussion about reaching out to members who haven't been logging in to the Zoom meetings. Some technical issues were discussed. Dale Osburn suggested the possibility of helping members if they picked up their Square Foot packets in person. Jerry Doyle suggested exploring if the St Albans library could be a resource for connectivity. Robert Osburn noted that it might be some time before we held traditional meetings again due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Bob Osburn at 1:10 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

June minutes approved
Treasury Balance is \$8,476.35.
Expenditures: \$25 for WV incorporation renewal.
Our IRS 990 filing for 2019 has been made.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$0. Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn welcomed everyone to our online meeting. He doesn't foresee returning to traditional meetings in the short term. He is waiting to hear from Mark Maynard about thoughts for our September picnic at Mark's home. It is probably too soon to make a final decision. Robert mentioned meeting at the depot outdoors as an alternative to get members involved. The issue of getting Square Foot Challenge kits to participants was discussed. They could be made available for personal pick up or possibly mailed.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter suggested we might try to have an outdoor meeting at the depot.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer mentioned Tom Harris's article on lube stencils in the last *Up the Holler*. Several members expressed positive feedback about it.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer is still waiting for paperwork to be processed for current AP applications.

Contest

Dale asked that members respond if they are participating in the Square Foot Challenge. He's more than happy to get kits to participants.

There was no contest today, instead we had a bring-

and-brag. Dale Osburn showed several Bar Mills craftsman structures he'd built recently from the Cundy Valley Series. Jerry Doyle showed a Soo Line Accurail boxcar he built and weathered. Sam Delauter showed some brass cabooses he's painted and a Train Cat N Scale PRR N6b photo etched kit that was in progress. Dale asked participants send pictures to Bob Weinheimer for *Up the Holler*.

Education

This role is currently vacant. Robert Osburn expressed a desire to get it filled soon. It is one of the Division's most important missions. Bob Weinheimer shared that the NMRA national is working to invigorate educational outreach throughout the organization.

Membership

John Harris was not available.

Raffle

No raffle today.

T-TRAK

Sam reported that the current situation has curtailed group activities. He'd be interested to see someone write an article on T-TRAK.

Open Discussion

Robert brought up the topic of member participation using technology. Jerry Doyle suggested a non-business, informal meeting during the week. After some discussion it was decided to try Thursday evening. Our first meeting of this type will be the July 16, the third Thursday of the month. A notice will be distributed on Facebook and the Division 9 mailing list as a test.

Clinic

Today's clinic is a tour of David Oliverio's B&O N Scale layout. David has completed the majority of benchwork. It is constructed from steel studs. Sam asked for volunteers for the August clinic. Jerry Doyle volunteered to do a clinic *Lessons Learned on The Grafton & Greenbrier*.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Basically, everything has been cancelled for Summer and Fall.

Future Meetings:

August 8 – Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The contest for July was Bring and Brag (see pictures and details below). For the month of August we will continue with the Bring and Brag contest. This can be anything that you have completed or currently have on the workbench.

Robert Osburn has constructed the scratch built NMRA structure for the Fourth Annual Gary Burdette

Memorial Model Challenge. Robert has also offered to supply and cut all materials for the project. Please let me know if you would like to build this completely free kit for the challenge.

I can be reached at 304-840-4366. or contest@coaldivision.org



Dale Osburn built the Bar Mills craftsman kit Potters Pub



This is the Gary Burdette Memorial Model Challenge structure as built by Robert Osburn.



Jerry Doyle showed us an Accurail boxcar he assembled and weathered.



Sam Delauter showed us four cabooses. Top left is PRR N5B, top right is N8, Bottom left is Overland Brass EL, right Lambert C&O.

MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST 2020 SCHEDULE

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

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Well, this issue of *Up The Holler* is a little thin. That's the bad news. The good news is that it was much easier to put together! That said, I always welcome the challenge of getting one of those nice articles set up for your reading enjoyment. If you want some more meat, start writing some articles.

As the pandemic continues we seem to be getting more and more comfortable with Zoom meetings. If only we can get more of our members willing and/or able to participate. We have made special efforts to reach out to those in person regulars who have not been Zooming, it looks like we may be making progress.

The July 16 *Out of the Holler* event was well attended with members from Division 10 in Lexington and Division 8 in Louisville joining us. We also had a couple of fellows from Houston participate. No, they didn't just find us, Andy Cummings is a native West Virginian who has been living in Houston for the last several years.

NMRA-x has recently outdone themselves with 7 days of clinics broadcast, mostly live, via Facebook and

YouTube during the week we should have been in St. Louis. Video quality can be somewhat variable and apparently there were some technical glitches. In any case, after some editing, they are posted for all to see on the NMRA YouTube page. While there is much to see, one wonders what the benefit to the NMRA might be. We are looking into a way to limit the viewers to members in the hopes that this will be seen as a member benefit thereby increase membership.

The technology to do that is being developed but it is clear that you MUST have your email address on file with the NMRA in order to gain access once this happens. This does not happen automatically when you create your online account, it takes a separate step in the membership renewal process. If you already get the every other month E-Bulletin and the monthly Turntable, you are all set. If not, I can help you get set up.

In the meantime, check out all of those clinics. There has to be something of interest to you!

Out of the Holler Zoom Bull Session Jerry Doyle

On July 16, 2020 we held the first *Out of the Holler* online meeting for Division 9 members and any other model railroaders who wanted to attend. The idea behind this meeting was partly to help with the isolation many people have experienced during the lock down for COVID-19. For our inaugural meeting we had 15 in attendees from West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Texas. Some were calling in from the comfort of their couch or easy chair while others were at their workbench. There was discussion about the impact of the lockdown and its impact on our hobby. David Oliverio gave folks a short tour of his N Scale B&O Monongah Division layout currently under construction. Dale Osburn showed everyone his HO Scale home layout designed for two operators. We discussed various topics including layout lighting and the temperature of LED fixtures.

We are planning another *Out of the Holler* online meeting session for July 30. Everyone is invited.

Here is a link for the meeting:

Topic: Out of the Holler

Time: Jul 30, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time

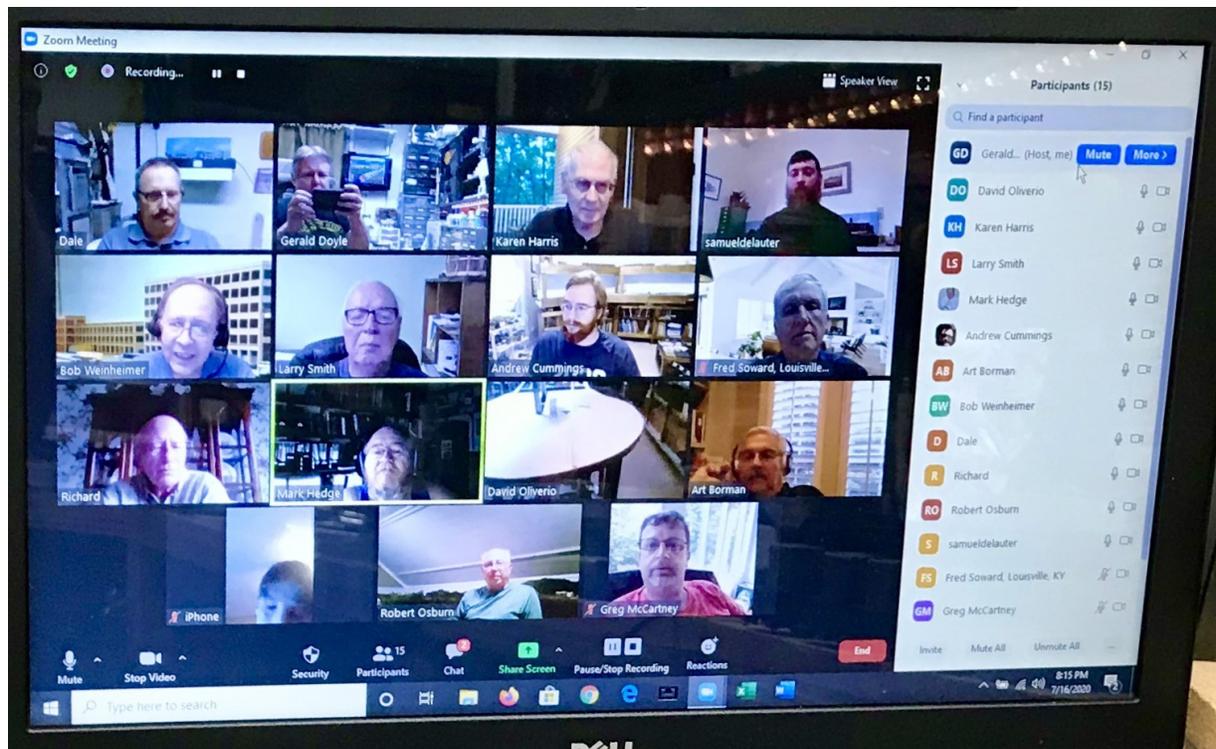
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99014759714>

Meeting ID: 990 1475 9714

Here is a short YouTube tutorial on signing into a Zoom meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkCmbvAHQQ>



Jerry provided us with a screen shot of the July 16 Bull Session. We had a number of Coal Division members and friends as well as members from Divisions in Lexington and Louisville. We also had a couple of guests from the Houston, Texas area. Join us July 30 for our next Bull Session.



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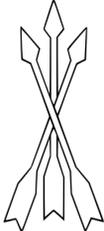
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Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

CRESCENT VALLEY

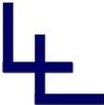


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Allegheny & New River Road
 An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's

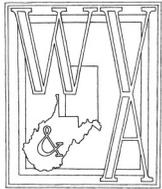


Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America a few tons at a time



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West Virginia & Atlantic Railroad



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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.

September 12

St. Albans Depot and/or Virtual

October 10

St. Albans Depot and/or Virtual

November 14

St. Albans Depot and/or Virtual