



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

DECEMBER 2010



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR; Superintendent

I was pleased to see the large turnout, about 20 of us, at the train show in Bluefield. I trust you found the trip to Bluefield to be pleasant and not at all difficult. Those of you who attended last year's event know we had our meeting in a nice room at the show venue. That room was unavailable to us this year so we had to find an alternate meeting location. The two shown to me were less than ideal but the weather was nice so we met outside! I won't plan on the same lovely warm weather next year so we will work with Kelley, Charlie, and Dan to find a good place.

Our next meeting will be back at our home base, West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. That event will have a first for us: a visit to a layout after the meeting. Dan Kennedy is eagerly awaiting our arrival after the business meeting. He tells me his home is only about five minutes from the hobby shop. He will have maps and directions to hand out to us. If you have ever opened your layout for a tour, or even helped somebody else do so, you know it is a lot of work and sure hope for a good turnout. Let's be sure to give Dan a good return for his efforts.

We will also be hosting Dale Smith and Matt Kross from Division 5. These gentlemen were both at the Coalfield Express and are the chairmen of the Rails of Ages convention in Geneva on the Lake in late April. As we assemble this issue on December 1, I am not certain if they will be with us for our December or January meeting. Regardless, I am certain they will bring along a good presentation describing all the events they have in store for us. The clinic list to date looks strong; it includes four clinicians from the Coal Division. Jerry Doyle and Gary Burdette took the Coalfield Express presentation to Division 5 in early January and were shown an outstanding level of hospitality, they still talk about it 11 months later! Let's be sure to show Dale and Matt the same warm welcome when they come to visit.

MEETING NOTICE

DECEMBER 11

2 PM

WEST VIRGINIA HOBBIES AND CRAFTS
TEAYS VALLEY, WV

Come early and do some Christmas shopping before the meeting! Also, if you have models to be judged, bring them at 1 PM. The contest will be Modeler's Choice so bring along anything that just does not fit any other month. In stead of a clinic, we plan to visit Dan Kennedy's layout. Dan will hand out maps and directions to his home.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary Burdette; Assistant Superintendent

Part of the enjoyment we obtain from our interest in the hobby of model railroading is the fact that there are so many prototypical and historical aspects related to it. We may choose to study the people of an area or era. The development of the railroad and industry are worthy of our attention. Civil War buffs may look into the ramifications of the conflict in various states in relation to the railroad. One example is the Battle of Phillipi, West Virginia. General McClellan had amassed 10,000 troops south of Grafton at Webster (The childhood home of Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, was used as his headquarters) in order to be nearby to protect the B&O line at this important locale. Thus, the first land battle was fought there as the Confederates attempted to capture the line. The list goes on.

Related to these studies may be the obtainment and preservation of pictures and artifacts. The NMRA has its library and the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society (of which I am a member) has its archives. Both (among many other organizations) have a variety of valuable assets representing important glimpses into the past. We borrow and study these collections for our own enjoyment and entertainment and to increase our knowledge. Sometimes we may acquire our own bits of memorabilia.

Several years ago I obtained some interesting photos. Though they are a little worn, they document history. The first shows two views of a GMC tanker lettered for the Ohio Department of Highways. The bicycle wheel on the side may indicate it was used to paint or spray something at intervals. The large engine and pump on the rear most certainly disperses some form of liquid. The second item is an old B&C flat. At first I thought it was a B&O, but under magnification, I saw an unfamiliar reporting mark (____& Charleston?). Stenciling on the side notes it was built 1-06. It lists M-W-S-WT 1-29. Other information includes YOKE ATTACHMENT, COUPLER SHAFT 5x7, METAL BRAKE BEAM, and FRICTION DRAFT GEAR. On the back written in pencil is the inscription "getting out the Charleston job E L. Smith Quairir." These are two interesting documents, to say the least.

I am passing these along to my fellow Division 9 members as a way of preserving them through you by sharing them with you. Perhaps, someone knows more about these two pieces of equipment. Both could make nice additions to an era appropriate model railroad. I encourage you to notify our editor if you have anything you can add to the discussion. Share and we learn.



WEBMASTER REPORT

Bob Weinheimer MMR

I had some trouble with the software I use to create the web site and had to rebuild the whole thing. If you see anything that doesn't look right, please let me know.

As you can see below, web site page views continue to stay at a fairly high level. As you would expect, we leveled off after the Convention but the numbers for June through October are about fifty percent above those a year or so before the convention. The web site provider has apparently had some sort of trouble reporting web activity, I could not get a number of page views for the month of November.

Paul Lapointe submitted a number of photos of his layout, these were put on the web site around November 19. Three of these fine photos can be seen on page 6. If

you want the world to see your layout, send me photos with captions and I will create a page for you.

January 2010	8827
February	6551
March	7087
April	7780
May	9947
June	4586
July	4536
August	5087
September	4589
October	5025
November	???

NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

The Board and officers are already preparing for the upcoming Winter Board of Directors meeting by preparing a list of topics to bring up for discussion. As we mentioned last month, the winter Board Meeting is being held concurrently with the Budget and Operations meetings this year in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel (about 5 miles from the airport). The Budget and Operations meetings, which are by invitation only, begin on Tuesday, February 22 at 9 a.m. The Board Meeting runs from 9 to 5 (or later) on Wednesday, February 23, and 9 to 5 (or later) on Thursday, February 24. All NMRA members are welcome to attend.

If you recall, the Union Pacific sponsored a photo contest last summer. Entrants were asked to model and then photograph a UP scene. The grand prize was a day-long ride in the cab of a UP steamer. The winner, who was chosen from the over-100 photographs entered, was Harlan "Buzz" Lenander. Buzz had his day in the cab on October 4 on a fantrip that started in the Kansas City (Missouri) Union Station and ended at the old Missouri Pacific Depot in Jefferson City, Missouri. The trip took place October 4. The Union Pacific displayed a congratulatory message on both sides of the Reed Jackson, one of their preeminent steam engines. The UP also posted a short movie clip featuring Buzz and the model he photographed. You can download that clip from: http://www.uprr.com/newsinfo/attachments/media_kit/steam/2010/mo-river-eagle/video/1004_a.wmv Watch *NMRA Magazine* for the full story.

NMRA Magazine will soon be running a "help wanted" column each month. As you know, we're a volunteer organization and always in need of able bodies to lend a hand. Now that we're going to be putting more emphasis on our website, we especially need help in that area. Here are the positions we're looking for -- if any of your members fit the qualifications below, please pass their names along to us!

Electronics engineers with experience in setting up control systems needed to take part in discussions and development of NMRANET. Current bus is designed using CAN. Time commitment: several hours per week.

IT staff volunteer with experience in Content Management Systems. Able to program in PHP and PostgreSQL/MySQL, and good experience in HTML and CSS. IIS and VB experience a plus. Time commitment: ~3 hours per week.

"Members Only" content manager who can oversee our website's "Members Only" section by finding content (e.g. scanning articles from past issues of Scale Rails, uploading finished data sheets, etc). Time commitment: ~6 hours per month.

Data Sheet program manager with some technical and editorial background to identify new topics to cover as well as older Data Sheets that will benefit from updates and upgrades. Help locating subject-matter experts will be provided. Time commitment: a few hours per week.

DISCOVERING ITEMS FROM THE PAST

By Gary J. Burdette

Photo by the author

In my assistant superintendent's column this month I have presented a couple photos from the past that I stumbled upon at an old antique store. While the truck and flat car shown are probably long gone, there may be similar items still around that document the past in three-dimensional form and are worthy of being photographed, measured, and documented. Such an example was an old Chevy flat-bed truck with a drilling rig attached that I happened to see in a yard by the road along the old B&O Ohio River Line at Letart, West Virginia. The old rig is not a common sight, is somewhat historic, and begs to be modeled. When I saw it, I knew it was the perfect "Larry Richards project," as he is a master of HO vehicles with many highly detailed and modified models to his credit.

I have an old truck that matched this one (a detailed toy of unknown brand), though any make, including the U.S. Army six-by, would be fine as the basis for building the model because the engine, supports, pulleys, and frame were placed upon many different types of truck. Once you find the appropriate vehicle, you must gather your scratch-building items. I selected sections of small Evergreen angle iron and channel stock. The motor and radiator from a Jordan Products tractor would really match the prototype, with a couple of Grandt Line pulleys you're in business. I used the truck model and photographs to prepare a rough scale drawing in hopes of getting things in the proper proportions. I did not crawl around on the thing getting measurements since it was in a fellow's front yard. Close will have to do here. It is not finished, so the prototype shots will have to inspire and direct you in your modeling efforts, for now.

Thus, here is a brief look at something you can still find from the past, photograph, and model....if you keep your eyes open and are lucky enough to find it!



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our first two meetings in 2011 will be at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. In January we meet the 8th; the contest will be Cabooses. In February we meet the 12th, the contest will be Diesel Locomotives. We need clinicians for both meetings, if you are planning a clinic for the MCR convention, this might be a good time to try it out on us.

March will see us heading to Lin Young's home in Gallipolis, OH on the 12th. The contest will be Freight Cars and the clinic will be an operating session on Lin's

Grafton and Greenbrier layout.

In April we will be back at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts on the 9th. The contest will be Passenger Cars.

We are planning a visit to Parkersburg for the May 14 meeting. At the moment it appears we will get to see Paul Lapointe's layout before the meeting. The meeting will be hosted by Dave Stout. Dave's layout is well worth the visit. The contest in May will be Steam Locomotives.

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 13, 2010 Jerry Doyle, Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

Minutes were distributed in the newsletter.
Treasury we have approx \$8500 with all but one obligation satisfied.

Superintendent Report

Bob asked Dan Mulhearn to update members about Clint Foster and his wife. Both had recent health issues. The MCR voted give the president authority to handle an issue regarding an officer who has moved to an adjoining county. The region's officer terms were defined. Lin Young is the nominating chair. Next year's regional convention is shaping up. We will have a presentation at our December or January about the convention.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary discussed some historical resources about WV railroads he recently found.

<http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvcollection/>
<http://members.cox.net/mylvrr/>
<http://wvcoalhistory.com/>
<http://appalachianrailroadmodeling.com/>

Webmaster

We are averaging 4500 hits per month. .

Achievement Program

Ed presented Gary Burdette with several merit certificates for rolling stock and structures.

Nominations Chair

None

Membership Chair

John discussed an idea proposed by Bob Weinheimer that we get name badges for division members. John predicted a cost of \$10-15. John also mentioned some ideas for railfan/railroad trips to Elkins in May. He mentioned the hope we can plan more such trips and asked members to provide ideas.

"Up The Holler" Editor Report

As always materials are needed. The type style was changed to conserve ink.

Old Business

New Business

Kelley Massie thanked the members for coming to Bluefield for the meeting.

Announcements

Next Meetings

Date: December 11
Location: West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts,
Teays Valley, WV

Contest

Non-revenue no entries were submitted.

Clinic

Members enjoyed the annual Bluefield Train Show sponsored by the Pocahontas Chapter of the NRHS.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

At long last the certificates recently earned by Ron Blessing, Dave Stout, and Paul Lapointe have arrived. Ed Keith and I will present the certificates to these gentlemen at the December meeting assuming they attend. If not, they will wait until January.

If you have anything portable (cars, locomotives, and structures come to mind) that you would like to have judged, bring them to the meeting. We will judge them between 1 and 2. Please remember to bring all the neces-

sary paperwork, including the scoring sheet, so we can better appreciate what you have done. Don't forget to brag a bit. If you don't tell us, we won't know that some part of the effort was very difficult and that you solved a hard problem as you built the model.

If you need us to make a trip to your layout to judge scenery or witness something such as your electrical work, just let me know. Again, please have all the documentation ready for us.

Here are just a few of the photos Paul Lapointe submitted for the Coal Division web site. You can see all of them at www.coaldivision.org/pittsburgh_and_western.html. Obviously, Paul's layout is still under construction. I'm sure that it will be outstanding after some more scenery is in place!



To the left is an overview photo showing the Coal Fork Branch Line on the upper level and Midway Yard on the lower level.

Paul does a great job of kitbashing. At least two of his kitbashed structures have been judged at merit award levels. To the right you can see the NCR building, it is an Art Curren inspired kitbash of several Belvedere Hotels.




Paul is an avid steel mill modeler. To the left we see the Ironworks ore yard, the place where the raw materials of iron making (iron ore, taconite, coke, and limestone) are received by both barge and rail. The material is stockpiled using large bridge cranes.



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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.

Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

December 11

West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

January 8, 2011

West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

February 12, 2011

West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

March 12, 2011

Lin Young's Home
Gallipolis, OH