



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

October, 2011



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Well, our annual event at Mark Maynard's in Portsmouth was a great success. We had Coal Division members who traveled about four hours each way from far southern West Virginia as well as a couple of dozen members who live at least an hour away. Division 6 was well represented with about a dozen members who made their way south from the greater Columbus area.

Mark served us the usual tasty barbecue along with the usual potato salad, coleslaw, chips, and drinks. Nobody went away hungry. Upstairs in the barn we could see great progress with the layout scenery, Mark and his crew have done a fine job there. The flea market was another success, Jerry Doyle reports we made about \$80 for the division, the most ever. Much of that was the 10% fee paid by the sellers but some sellers just donated the entire sale to the division. For that we are all grateful. While we did not have a raffle that might have competed with the sale, Paul Lapointe rounded up a few unsold item donations for future raffles. If it was too expensive at the sale, you might win it for the cost of a raffle ticket in future months.

Our business meeting was different this year, it was a joint meeting with Division 6. Bob Lee and I worked to prepare an agenda that allowed us to cover our business by alternating between divisions. For example, we talked about our newsletter then they discussed theirs. We did have a big moment when the Achievement Program came up for discussion. Gary Burdette's long awaited Master Model Railroader plaque finally arrived and was presented to him by Mid Central Region President Dick Briggs. Dick also called all other MMRs from both divisions to join him in the presentation.

The joint business meeting worked well and Bob Lee has invited us to a joint meeting of Divisions 6 and 9 to take place next June at Marion, OH. The meeting site is the old passenger station there that sits among three heavily traveled main lines. There is also a model railroad club there. We don't know the date yet but please figure on spending our June 2012 meeting in Marion.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

"You're darned if you, and darned if you don't." "Six of one and half-a-dozen of another." "You can't see the forest for the trees." I don't know if any or all of these old expressions describe what I've been thinking lately, but I've become aware of a tendency, trend, or approach to modeling which, though not really new, is now more prevalent than in the past. And, I, for one, am cognizant of this change. There may be a subtle, though not intentional, redirecting of our efforts from building to operating. I look it as kit-bashing and scratch-building verses collecting and operating - building vs. R-T-R.

A couple of years ago our Super, Bob Weinheimer presented a clinic on the NMRA's Achievement Program. As we discussed the requirements, we were drawn to the various areas of scratch-building. It was noted that some of the rules and definitions seemed to go back forty years, or so - to the "age of scratch-building" when there were less ready-to-run items than today, especially of our favorite line, and the modeler was forced to fabricate his own replica of a given structure, car, or loco. It is easier to purchase a needed item now than it once was allowing more time to run trains rather than build them.

Recently, Tom Dixon, Founder and Chief Historian of the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society, noted that much of the modeling interest has shifted from how-to articles on constructing a specific pieces of C&O equipment to the question "how did they run?" We have seen more general interest in operations over the last thirty years from authors such as McClellan, Chubb, and Koester. Those of us with good memories (old enough to

have been around a while) remember John Allen and Frank Ellison from even earlier times. My favorite line of Ellison's was "Engineer Keeting pulled back on the throttle as he eased his train into town." While all of these gentlemen built models to a fine degree of skill, they all stressed operations. They have been very successful in their efforts, because more and more magazine articles feature operations, and many more modelers are setting up operating sessions instead of just running trains.

I spoke with Steve Summers, from out Louisville way, last week. He had seen a drawing I had made of the C&O C-16, 0-8-0 switchers that were sold to the Virginian and N&W when the C&O brought in diesels from the Pere Marquette for yard work to begin the dieselization process. Our discussion was about the "paint can" device located in front of the smoke stack on a couple of units. He thought I may know what this was, but I hadn't noticed it as the locos I had studied didn't have them, so, I was of no help. This did lead to the topic of detail parts and scratch-building. Maybe, I should say, the lack of available castings was the concern we shared. We voiced some of the same things stated above. We concluded there has been a real shift to operating rather than building. Obviously, the wealth of R-T-R rolling stock and locos is not new the hobby, however, an abundance of ready-built, pre-painted structures is a recent addition to the shelves. The detail parts rack is often half full (half empty?). Is this because "detail hounds" are buying them out or the shop owner is slow to replace them? Am I right? You make the call!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 8 we will meet at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley. Bob can present a clinic on AP judging but you sure don't want to hear him drone on two meetings in a row, do you? If not, offer a clinic. The contest will be Open Loads.

November 12 we will make the annual trip to Bluefield. The NRHS Pocahontas Chapter's train show makes the trip worthwhile and we plan to have our meeting at

the train show. The contest will be Non Revenue Equipment.

December 10 we will meet at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley. The clinic is not yet determined but the contest is Modeler's Choice so bring something that you have that may not fit the usual contest categories. Also, plan on doing your Christmas hobby shopping.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Weinheimer MMR

As noted on page 1, the big news this month was the presentation of Gary Burdette's MMR plaque.

It looks like we are beginning to see some activity other members as well. Mark Maynard presented his Electrical SOQ to me while Greg McCartney reports he is

very close to having his ready. As I have noted previously, this certificate is almost hard to avoid for a modeler building a layout with any sort of prototypical features. Check out the requirements, you may be closer to this one than you think.



To the left we see Mid Central Region President Dick Briggs, MMR presenting Gary Burdette with his MMR plaque.
Photo by Jerry Doyle

To the right is Gary with a closer view of the plaque. Work hard and earn one of these for yourself!
Photo by Jim Heilmann



Here are all the Master Model Railroaders present at the meeting. From left to right: Howard Smith, Bob Weinheimer, Dick Briggs, Gary Burdette, and Ed Keith.
Photo by Jerry Doyle

More photos on page 7

NMRA DIVISION 9, MCR Meeting minutes, September 10, 2011

Welcome and Introductions Meeting called to order at 1:57 by Bob Weinhiemer. Today's meeting is a joint meeting of Division 9 and Division 6 of the MCR.

Bob thanked Mark and his wife for hosting the meeting.

Bob Lee, Div 6 Superintendent, thanked Division 9 for hosting the meeting and invited Div 9 to their meeting in Marion next June.

Division Clerk Report

Division 9 minutes approved as published.

Division 9 balance 8268.74 with \$65 in income last month.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent's reports were annulled for the day.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary Burdette: discussed the educational ideas such as displays at meetings and handouts. The idea of lesson plans for railroad ideas was also mentioned. He mentioned Bernie Kempinski's Civil War site as an educational resource.

Programs

The BSA railroad merit badge program was discussed. Tony P has completed his paperwork and Gary will soon also. Within a few weeks they both will be in the database as a resource for local scouts wishing to get the RR merit badge.

Contest

Bob reminded members to vote in today's photo contest.

Achievement Program

Gary Burdette was presented with his MMR Plaque

Webmaster

Web traffic is still down from the levels of last year's regional convention

Nominations Chair

Please contact the chair if you are interested in an office.

Raffle

The August raffle was our most successful ever

"Up The Holler" Editor Report

Dan is still looking for material for the newsletter.

Membership

No report

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Dennis McGheney reminded everyone of the Hocking Valley trip and Roanoke Trip on September 21.

Division 7 is sponsoring SWOOPS

Dave Stout asked members introduce themselves.

Future Meetings

Oct 8 Winfield at WV Hobbies & Crafts

Nov 12 in Bluefield

December 10 in Winfield at WV Hobbies & Crafts.

Contest

Railroad photos

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Doyle

Division 9 Clerk

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 example, this issue was prepared August 31. 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.

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines:

November:	October 31
December:	November 28
January	January 2
February	January 30

TRAVELS WITH DENNIS

As you are no doubt aware, Dennis McGeeney has been attempting to set up informal trips to various places which are of interest to railroad aficionados. The Saturday trip to the Hocking Valley on Sept. 17 did not work out; however Dennis is promoting a trip to the Roanoke area to visit the Virginia Transportation Museum, The O Winston Link Museum and observe the heart of the for-

mer N&W which passes between the two museums. This trip will be during the week on Wed. October 5, 2011. If you are interested in going along, contact Dennis. When we know who is going, and where they are traveling from, travel arrangements/car pools will be arranged. Please see Dennis at the next meeting or call him at home at 304-872-7262.

MY WORDS

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

I noted that Bruce Knapp, our new friend from Division 7, in his Column in *The Oil Can* was much kinder to Amtrak than I was in my report on our Amtrak trip to and from the NMRA National Convention in July. Bruce has been covering a little of the trip in each of his monthly columns instead of firing one "blast" the way I did. I might note that in response to my letter to Amtrak's president; I was contacted by the passenger services department and they offered to "consider" refunding the accommodation charge from our Chicago to Hinton fiasco. I mailed back my ticket stubs over a month ago and have heard nothing since. Oh, well. Now, Bruce is possibly more used to suffering than am I. After all, he is a Santa Fe modeler in a Division which is a hot bed of C&O and B&O modelers. He and I noticed that when we were heading home on the California Zephyr, the train was intercepted by several police officers at Colfax, CA and an individual was taken off the train in handcuffs. Bruce was going to pass the word to Mike Brestel that the man had been arrested for wearing a C&O ball cap. However, as it turned out, the person arrested was the Amtrak coach attendant on one of the coaches on our train. He was wanted on drug charges and the police figured the best way to be sure to catch him was at work.

Speaking of the Santa Fe, I just heard from an old co-worker from Long Island. He has recently rebuilt his HO layout after moving to a new home. Mike models the JEROME CENTRAL which is short line which connects with the Santa Fe at the little town of Jerome, AZ. Mike reports that they had to trim the schedule considerably after I moved as they had no one to take the job of yardmaster in Jerome, on the new layout. Can't figure that out as many a pleasant evening was spent by me as yardmaster at Jerome. To make a short story long; one of the other operators has decided to give the yardmaster job a shot. Sure brings back pleasant memories. (*Don't worry, Dan makes up for it by taking care of Pittsburgh on the Pennsylvania Southern from time to time—Bob*)

MTH "Powhatan Arrow" Cars

Mikes Train House (MTH) has released it's HO scale N&W Powhatan Arrow passenger train set. This is a really nice, reasonably priced, replica of the 1949 version of the Powhatan Arrow train. The cars have the cinder deflectors which were removed at the end of steam operation as well as the "as delivered" full skirts. The cars are lighted and I powered up the DCC and put the observation car on the rail with no result. MTH has equipped the cars with capacitors so it takes a minute for the car lights to come on; but once they are on they will remain on for awhile after the car is removed from the rail. This system will eliminate the "flicker" common in lighted cars. My plan is to one day use cheap DCC decoders to turn on and off the lights in each car. I have an expensive brass imported Powhatan Arrow set of cars and the MTH cars look just fine up against them. Not only that, but the MTH cars have different numbers from the Overland cars! The set consists of a "locker/coach", a "Jim Crow" coach, a 53 seat straight coach, a diner and the wonderful boat tail lounge/observation. The cars have complete interiors. The diner interior is the original 36 seat plan. This was modified to 24 seats with eight lounge chairs and a writing desk after the observation/lounge cars were taken out of service and sold to Saudi Arabia (NOT ON MY RAILROAD!) The interior colors on the prototype varied from car to car and it appears MTH tried to get the observation/lounge right. The other cars are not quite correct, but the overall effect is very pleasing. One last note; I figured on getting a good deal by ordering these cars from Caboose Hobbies in Denver. Well, Chuck has a set at Teays Valley and they are priced well below what I paid. **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOBBY STORE!**

Dan

NATIONAL CONTEST REPORT

Dan Mulhearn, Coal Division Contest Chairman

To the right are photos I took at the NRMA National Convention in Sacramento of winning entries in the model contest. The display of the UP's Cheyenne yard and engine terminal was just fabulous. Buzz Lenander took first place in dioramas with this model as well as second place in the "peoples' choice" photo match category. Meanwhile, Joe Aynar took first place in the "peoples' choice" photo match contest for his model of the FOX Theater in Bakersfield CA. This model also took first place in the judged model scratchbuilt structure category. These were wonderful models which won in competition with other wonderful models.

I would, however, like to make a point here. I have attended the past two MCR Region conventions and would like to say that the modeling I have seen at these conventions would be very competitive on a National level. Just for some examples; think of Dick Briggs diorama of the lake boat with the Hullett unloaders. This is something which would have been very competitive in several categories. Looking at kit class locomotives, I believe Tony Parrish's M&A locomotives could stand shoulder to shoulder with anything I saw at the National. I could go on in this vein in regard to many other categories. The point is not that there is something lacking in the contest models entered at the National level. To begin with, it is not always easy to get models from a distance to enter in the National so in some regards, it is a regional contest. However, I have seen modeling in our Region on a par with what was displayed at Sacramento!

The one thing I did notice was that the documentation on these models was thorough and, no doubt, went a long way towards influencing the judges and the voting public. Whether you like it or not, good documentation will go a long way towards scoring "points" for your modeling. So, enter those models in Division and Region contests! If you can afford to attend a National, don't hesitate to enter your models. Please know that if you are uncomfortable with the required documentation, we will be glad to help in that regard. The documentation is important but the most important thing is YOUR modeling and we would like to see you recognized for it.



Buzz Lenander's UP Cheyenne yard and engine terminal display, first place dioramas
Photo by Dan Mulhearn



Joe Aynar's Fox Theater, second place Peoples' Choice Photo Match
Photo by Dan Mulhearn

All photos this page by Jim Heilmann

There is nothing like starting them off young. Adam McCartney, in the arms of his father, Coal Division member Greg, is already quite the railfan. Below and to the right you can see him with a two handed grip on a passenger car.



We had near perfect weather for the outdoor events. At left is the tent that provided shade as we ate then later for the business meeting. To the right we see the flea market.



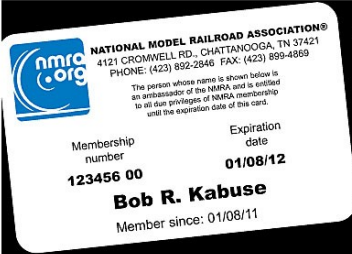
We also came to see Mark's layout. His big yard is in the left photo. In the right photo you can see the colored lights that can provide realistic light for night operating sessions.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

The Howell Day Museum is issuing a new release of its highly successful Gorre and Daphetid bobber cabooses. Two new bobbers, numbered 3 and 5, are available from Headquarters immediately. A single car is US\$19.95 + \$4 shipping and handling, and the set of two is US\$34.95 + \$4 shipping and handling. The new cars are available in HO scale only, and are ready to run. They feature operating magnetic knuckle couplers and free-rolling metal wheels. Watch for the ad running in *NMRA Magazine*. To order, call HQ at 423-892-2846.

Registrations for Grand Rails 2012, next year's national convention in Grand Rapids, Mich., are taking off. Half of the available Furniture City Flyers Club memberships are already sold. Details about this club can be found on the convention's website at www.gr2012.org. In addition almost 90 clinic slots have been filled, with topics ranging from geared locomotives to timetable/train order operation. If one of your members is interested in presenting a clinic, have them fill out an application form on the website. They're especially looking forward to clinics covering prototype modeling and operations.

One more convention note: there has been a change in the visitation procedure for Bruce and Janet Chubb's Sunset Valley Oregon System. The SVOS will now be open a portion of every day from Sunday, July 29, through Saturday August 4, for self-guided tours. Special commemorative tickets will be available each day exclusively for the SVOS, so attendees can choose to visit any time during any open day.



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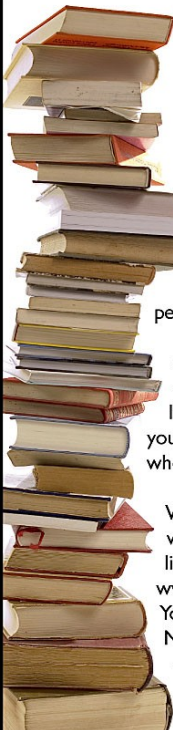
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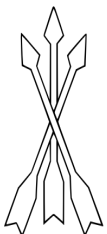
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Upcoming Coal Division Meetings

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October 8, 2011

West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts
Teays Valley, WV

November 12

Bluefield, WV

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