



# UP THE HOLLER

## Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

December, 2011



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Bob Weinheimer MMR

As the year closes it is customary in some circles to look back at that year and its big events. In 2011 the Coal Division had quite a year with many big happenings. The year started with the news in February that Gary Burdette was named Master Model Railroader 457. This was a bit of a surprise as I had expected his seventh certificate to be his Prototype Model of Thurmond but in looking back at his activities, it quickly became apparent that he had earned enough credit to receive the Association Volunteer Certificate.

In April about a dozen Coal Division members, that's about 20% of our membership, attended the Mid Central Region's convention in Geneva on the Lake, Ohio. We presented four clinics and our members walked away with more than their fair share of contest prizes.

In May Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe hosted the Coal Division meeting that came to be known as "Steel Is King" with a large number of attendees including several from the Columbus area in the Buckeye Division. Dave and his wife fed the group a great lunch (or so I heard, I was at my son's wedding that day) and Dave and Paul opened their layouts for visits. This was the first time in several years we had met in the Parkersburg area, you can be sure we will be back in 2012.

In June we were visited by Paul Heaney, a resident of Perth, Australia. While Paul was already in this country on business, he comes from the most distant point of dry land on the entire planet from the Coal Division. How many other Divisions can say they have had visitors from 11,000 miles away?

In September Mark Maynard hosted us for our usual meeting at his home in Portsmouth, Ohio. This has become our de facto annual picnic where we welcome members of nearby divisions to join us. This year we tried something different: a joint meeting with the Buckeye Division centered in Columbus, Ohio. Keep in mind that during the Coal Division's period of inactivity many members were attached to the Buckeye Division so a joint meeting was almost an obvious thing to do. The meeting was well attended by both Divisions' members and Bob Lee and I developed an agenda that allowed us to cover the events and issues of both Divisions on a side by side basis. This event was so well received that our Divisions will meet together in Marion, Ohio June 16, 2012 for another joint meeting.

As the year closes we mourn the loss of the Superintendent who did the most to get the Coal Division back on the map. Lin Young will be missed by the Coal Division membership as well as his Grafton and Greenbrier operating group. There is more about Lin elsewhere in this issue.

Of course, the year is not quite over yet. As this is being written the day after Thanksgiving, we still have a few weeks left but I am already looking toward the Christmas holidays and the coming year. Is there another MMR out there that we don't envision yet? How many AP certificates will the group earn? Do you plan to attend the MCR convention in Pittsburgh in April? What other good news might we see? Let's all keep at it having lots of fun modeling and sharing our hobby with others.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

Ever since I was a little boy traveling with my family to see relatives out-of-state, I remember seeing trains. Coal trains, freight, and passenger trains were common. I didn't always know what they all were or where they were going, but I liked them. When I first discovered model railroading magazines, I began to learn more about the prototype and how to model it.

Frank Ellison's articles on "The Art of Model Railroad-ing" really piqued my interest. As a professional theatrical set designer, he wrote of the layout being the stage, the trains the actors, and the operations the plot. He spoke of smiles and a fast clock. He described the run of engineer Keating at the throttle of the way-freight "ducking into and out of sidings" as the superior trains caught and passed the plodding local. His humor was noted in the naming of his industries such as the Sanky-Wanky Coffee Company or Carter's Little River Mills. His talent, wit and personality were all displayed in his Delta Lines.

Similarly, the Gorre and Daphited Lines of John Allen captured his own spirit in his model railroad. As a bachelor, he was described as a man-on-a-mission who was seen spending most of his time carving dirt from under his house and turning it into a fantastic scene with floor to ceiling mountains, spectacular background views, large bridges, and highly detailed and weathered locos, rolling stock, and structures. He was a wonderful artist "painting" his masterpiece in three dimensions. Friends came from all corners of the world to run trains, visit, and talk on many subjects. John inspired a generation of modelers.

Allen McClelland came onto the scene in the early 1970s. His Virginian and Ohio was a free-lanced, fictitious road that was so real in looks and operations that it has almost become real. As one employed in the graphic arts field, he used these skills to not only model but to set the tone for a prototype-like line, albeit make-believe and miniature. His paint schemes, railroad herald, lettering styles, and scenery all convince you that the V&O actually existed in the mountains of Virginia. Train consists told you what trains were and road names visually directed you to where they were going. The graphic artist could catch your eye, layout the theme, and set the mood for the story just by all the visual components he incorporated into his model railroad. His beyond the basement approach set the standard for current operating styles throughout the model railroad community.

Other influential pioneers in our hobby include Bruce Chubb and his Sunset Valley and Tony Koester and his Midland Road. The former is an electrical engineer and

his signaling, control systems and lighting of super-detailed structures showed a whole new aspect to modeling. The latter is a writer with whom we are all familiar, and he has told us stories, thrown out suggestions, and made us think about our hobby through discussions in general and his own Midland Road in particular. More recently his private road has evolved into his true love, the actual parent line of his pretender, the prototype Nickel Plate Road. We actually watched Tony go through a metamorphosis of sorts as he changed themes.

As we studied the works of these men and others, a group of us decided, in 1990, to build a railroad in similar fashion as it was to incorporate much of what the previously mentioned gentlemen proposed. The line was to cut through West Virginia from one valley, up, over, around, and through the mountain (Allen McClelland-style) into the neighboring watershed (Tygart and Elk). It would have staging yards, a helix, two levels, a large curved yard typical of a narrow, West Virginia mountain valley, and would be associated with the C&O, B&O, WM, and Chessie System all of which were special favorites of the owner. It would have a signature scenic feature- a large and long steel deck-girder viaduct with concrete piers, which was a replica of one that actually existed in the state, just across the road from the owner's old family farm. Trains with local names like "Ripley 97" would be run and towns like Weaver Creek, Burdette Creek and Smith Summit would be chosen to honor friends. This railroad was designed and built as a personal reflection of the interests and history of its owner Mr. Nevell R. Agin (Nev R Agin), A.K.A., Lin Young. The railroad was to be called the "Grafton and Greenbrier."

The G&G has evolved into the line he (and we) envisioned and has been enjoyed by operators and visitors alike for twenty-one years. Almost every Wednesday night, many would come to socialize, tell jokes, and run trains. From the basic crew to visiting operators from all over, it didn't matter - everyone was always welcomed with open arms. Wednesday, November 16, 2011 saw us meet on one sad but special occasion as we gathered at the personal request of Lin's widow, Bev, to have "train night" in his memory. (As noted elsewhere, we lost E. Linwood Young on the 12th.) We ran trains with the grandkids, for some of the adults, and for ourselves as the occasion would present itself. We talked and shared stories about Lin with one another. As the evening progressed we could hear soft, smooth, beautiful tones coming from a back corner of the railroad as Dave Stout played his harmonica rendition of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad" as a fitting and personal tribute to Lin. When we gravitated to the crew lounge our conversations

grew soft, then quite. One of the guys said, "Its like we are waiting for Lin to get here (home from work, as we often arrived before he did) to run trains." It was then I realized: it was not the trains but the man that brought us and kept us together.

So it was and is with all the fellows noted above and all those whom we visit now and in the future. When we as individuals or as groups come to visit (or read an article), it will be the man (you) not the trains we actually come to see. This really is a people hobby, and we have lost one of our best. Goodbye, Mr. Agin!



## RIP Lin Young

By now you have heard the sad news that Lin Young, past Coal Division Superintendent, passed away suddenly on November 12. He had finished his annual horseback trip in Death Valley and was stricken as he started the trip home. Lin had been an NMRA member for about 30 years and became Superintendent in early 2004. The Coal Division revival had started the previous year but when Superintendent Jim Heilmann's health required him to step aside Lin was appointed as his successor. We can all recall the transition from poorly attended quarterly meetings to much better attended monthly meetings. Lin's positive attitude made all of that possible. Through his efforts the Achievement Program began to come alive and flourish. By 2007 we had become enough of a force that we were asked to host the 2010 MCR convention. That convention marked the end of Lin's terms as Superintendent and the MCR Board of Directors selected him to receive the Wenderfer Award sponsored by Division 7 in Cincinnati. MCR Vice President and Division 7 Superintendent Merlyn Jarman presented the award to Lin. His comments from that presentation are reprinted here:

*"Each year Division 7 is proud to sponsor the Russ Wenderfer award"*

*Past recipients have included:*

*Allen McClelland*

*Dean Freytag*

*Joe Kurilec*

*And EVEN current N.M.R.A. President, Mike Brestel*

*The award is given for promotion of the hobby within the Mid Central Region. Each Division may nominate a candidate who by their actions, involvement with Division activities, and overall extraordinary volunteer service has promoted the hobby of model railroading and promotion of the National Model Railroad Association.*

*This year's recipient is one of the founding members of Division 9 and is its outgoing Superintendent-Mr. Lin Young*

*In bringing to life the current Division 9, Lin was instrumental in forming this Division over 4 years ago starting with monthly meetings held around the Division 9 area, attracting new Members to Division 9, and through Lin's efforts, along with others, they adopted a set of by-laws and then went on to start a monthly modeling contest, monthly clinic presentations, and holding joint meeting with neighboring Divisions. They have one of the highest levels of*



Merlyn Jarman presents the 2010 Wenderfer Award to Lin as Bev Young looks on. Photo by Jerry Doyle

*participation in their NMRA Achievement program in the Region and claimed 14 of 27 awards at the 2009 Mid-Central Region Convention.*

*Just shows you what a guy with vision and get up and go can do.*

*Lin, it is my pleasure to present you with the 2010 Russ Wenderfer Award. Congratulations."*

We all know that Lin was seldom at a loss for words but this was one of those rare occasions when he was speechless.

Lin was, of course, the owner of the Grafton and Greenbrier, a wonderful free lance layout in his basement. In his role as trainmaster Nev R. Agin (say it out loud, it will make sense) he always supplied much needed levity whenever the weekly operating session got too serious. We will all need to find something else to do Wednesday evenings.

Lin was, of course, more than a model railroader. From aviation to hog farming to heavy equipment sales to his church, community, and family, Lin led a very full and active life. He will be missed by many.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
**The Coal Division**  
**NRHS Pocahontas Chapter Train Show**  
**Bluefield, West Virginia**  
**November 12, 2011**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A welcome was extended to all by our Super, Bob Weinheimer, and a special thank you given to Charlie Venable, Dan Mulhearn, and Kelley Massey for setting everything up for us.

Paul Lapointe travelled the furthest from home at 200 miles and 3 and 1/2 hours.

**DIVISION CLERK REPORT**

The clerk was absent but the superintendent called for and received a motion and second to approve the October minutes as printed in the newsletter. Minutes were approved.

No treasurer's report was available, however Bob stated that no major expenses were noted and finances remain about the same as previously reported.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Bob mentioned the upcoming dues increase as reported in the NMRA Magazine and suggested renewing memberships early for a savings.

The Privacy Policy requires permission from the member for us to use his name in the newsletter or otherwise release it to the public. Officers are listed in the newsletter. Lists are not available to the membership as a general informational source.

The MER Convention was attended by four of our members. Three gave clinics. All had a great time.

Division 3 has been very active on Facebook finding it a supplement to their web site.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR REPORT**

John is finishing up the name tag orders. He noted he needs an assistant as he has been pressed for time of late. He has been contacting those who need to re-up their membership.

Travels with Dennis- With the success of several rail fan outings, Dennis surveyed the crowd about a possible weekend trip on the Potomac Eagle, WM at Elkins, etc. in

June. All in attendance were interested.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

As several guys have done clinics, we looked at the specs. for the Author's Certificate. Photos of your layout on our web site, clinics, articles in UTH, educational videos and how-tos are noted on the NMRA site. The C&O Historical Magazine (and others) cry for articles. Getting biographies in the newsletter as we have previously done would be a start. (Either write your own or Dennis will submit a story about you under his byline.) We can advise you!

**BOY SCOUT PROGRAM**

Dennis has given Tony and Gary a web address for the Reading Railroad History Museum whose members already have a merit badge plan in place.

Tony reported on the notebook, class scheduling, possible testing, etc. Mark has advised scouts down Portsmouth way, and it was suggested that members from around the division may wish to sign up to work in your own area using the plan we are developing. (More to come.)

**WEB MASTER**

The site is still "under improvement," so no real data is available.

**ACHIVEMENT PROGRAM**

John Harris has Association Volunteer paperwork in the works.

Dennis McGeeney is scheduled to have his scenery judged.

Clint Foster has had his scenery successfully judged, We have discussed other's status and will be working with them.

**NOMINATION CHAIR**

Bill Wadsworth and two assistants (Dennis McGeeney and Dan Mulhearn) will run the election. The committee will report a slate of candidates at the January meeting at which time nominations may still be made from the floor. After that time, nominations are closed. At this time the committee may accept nominations. At the end of February a paper ballot must be mailed out and votes received by the March meeting.

## MINUTES (Continued)

### RAFFLE

Paul Lapointe reported all going well with a \$40.00 amount collected last month. We will not hold raffles when we have our own flea market or at the train show so as not to compete with these activities. The multiple choice format has been well received, so feel free to donate items to keep up the supply.

### NEW BUSINESS

None

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

### "UP THE HOLLER" EDITOR'S REPORT

All is going well. Dan is looking for input, articles, and feedback. He needs volunteers for clinics (remember author or volunteer points are available here.) He is looking for thoughts on different categories for our contests. (ie.: the Columbus guys had STOCK CARS, The Pittsburgh crew had a STEEL MODELS theme.) We are looking for someone to photograph all the entries for inclusion in UTH. It was also mentioned that the guys in Division 2 hand out 1st., 2nd., and 3rd.place certificates after each contest. Dan is looking at possibly preparing a stack for future use.

### NEXT MEETING

December 10, 2011 at West Virginia Hobbies (Contest-Modeler's Choice)

(Clinic - Tent. Insurance)

### CONTEST

Non-revenue - no entries

### CLINIC

Enjoy the train show.

### OLD BUSINESS

Respectfully submitted by Gary J. Burdette, Asst. Super.

None

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### Bob Weinheimer MMR

The Association Volunteer Statement of Qualifications for John Harris has been submitted for approval. I have an SOQ from a member for Electrical Engineer that needs a few local signatures, I will get those then get that one on its way to Frank Koch.

We are hoping to get a member's scenery judged before Christmas, I'll let you know how that turns out next month.

I know there are several of you who have done all the work but just need to generate some paper in order to

receive the recognition you deserve for your modeling skills. You know who you are so I won't embarrass you by naming you here. If you need any help with the writing (not the modeling, that's your job) just let me know. Your fellow members want to applaud your work when you receive your AP certificate.

Others may have met all the modeling requirements but don't even realize it yet. This can happen for Electrical Engineer, Civil Engineer, and Scenery so look things over, check the requirements, then write it up if appropriate.

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be December 10 at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts in Teays Valley, WV. As usual, some of us will gather around noon for lunch. The social hour starts around 1 with the business meeting at 2. The clinic will be presented by Dave Stout and is titled "Quick, Cheap, and in a Hurry", a group of quick and inexpensive

tricks Dave will pass along. The contest is Modeler's Choice which means bring anything you are proud of..

If you have any models to be judged for the Achievement Program, please bring them and they will be judged during the social hour.

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL NMRA INFONET

The Winter NMRA Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, and Thursday, February 9, 2012, beginning each day at 9:00 a.m.. All NMRA members are welcome to attend the open portions of this meeting. In order save as much money as possible on the meeting, it will again be held in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel. The NMRA Budget and Operations meetings, which are not open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, February 7 at the same location. The Board is expecting a packed agenda, and details of that agenda will be included in an InfoNet News eblast when they're arranged.

- Several members have asked about the current content of the NMRA's "Members-Only" section of the website, so here's some of what you'll find when you log on at [www.nmra.org/member](http://www.nmra.org/member) :

- You'll find the latest reprints of the Division and Region newsletter articles Jim Zinser mentions in his "Division Business Car / NMRA@Home" column every other month in *NMRA Magazine*. All previously mentioned articles also remain in Members-Only, so it's a great resource to learn new tips and techniques. If your newsletter editor would like to reprint one of the articles, please have him/her contact the original newsletter's editor for an OK.

- We've been adding "NMRA Magazine Classics" -- scans of articles from bygone issues of *Scale Rails* and *The Bulletin* that are truly classic articles. Our goal is eventually to have at least one article from every issue of the magazine posted. Obviously this takes a lot of man-hours, but you'll be surprised to find how many are already online. The articles may be a few years old, but if you haven't read them (or forgot about them), they're as fresh as today.

- In the "NMRA Member Extras" section we've posted the 2011 NMRA Calendar screensaver -- a great, inspiring addition to your computer.

- Each of the photos from the 2011 NMRA Calendar also resides in Members-Only as computer wallpaper. In addition, we asked each of the photographers to give us a brief description of how they took their shot. You'll find those descriptions posted as well. Both of these are also in the "Member Extras" section.

- Our "Promotional Materials" section contains a wealth of items Divisions and Regions will find useful. We have the NMRA logo available in a wide variety of graphic formats and sizes. You'll also find a PDF of the NMRA Member Benefits chart and a new-member solicitation brochure (which you can print out and photocopy), along with a new-member sign-up sheet. Last, you'll find the National Model Railroad Month materials, which include National Model Railroad Month logos in various sizes and graphic formats, as well as a Word document, "A guide to promoting National Model Railroad Month," which can be a handy reference whenever you want to promote your Region or Division.

In case your members are looking for more information about the Grand Rapids convention, there are two great convention videos posted on the Grand Rails2012 website at [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org). Also, remember that members who register before November 30 will have first dibs on hotel reservations, tour reservations, and merchandise. The Furniture City Flyers Club is nearly sold out, so if members want to experience dessert at sunset on Mirror Lake, they'll need to get their registration in soon. Register online at <http://www.gr2012.org/register.htm>.

*If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in NMRA Magazine.*


## 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 November 2. 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.

January	January 2
February	January 30
March	February 27
April	April 2





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**NORFOLK AND WESTERN**



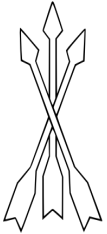
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## **Upcoming Coal Division Meetings**

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](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org) to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

**December 10**

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV**

**January 14**

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV**

**February 11**

**West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts  
Teays Valley, WV**