



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

October 2012



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

To all who did not go to the September meeting, you missed another good one. For once the weather forecasters got it right. They predicted the rain would stop around noon and so it did, the sun even came out by midafternoon. Thanks to Mark Maynard and Dan Gross we ate very well. Mark's layout is moving right along, be sure to get there next year to see the progress. Some of our friends from the Buckeye Division made it but Superintendent Bob Lee had no faith in the forecast and his car full of guys did not venture south. Don't worry, they were duly chastised at the MCR Board meeting.

That brings us to the subject of the Board of Directors meeting. Gary Burdette, Jerry Doyle, and I made the trip to Columbus on September 23. After a wonderful buffet of fine German food, we settled down to business. We heard the usual committee and division reports then got into some new business. The biggest news is that the Division 10 proposal to host the 2015 MCR convention was accepted and approved. The convention will take place in Lexington, KY.

In other convention news we got an update on the 2013 convention. Things are moving along nicely. While there will be a heavy focus on operations, the other aspects of the hobby will not be ignored. The convention starts on Wednesday May 15, a day earlier than usual. This early start date is to accommodate operating sessions but I suspect other activities will be spread across the whole convention time. There are several Coal Division clinicians, check it out at www.mcr2013convention.com.

We also heard from the planners of the 2014 National convention in Cleveland. If your name is in the MCR clinician database, expect to hear from Dave Neff, clinic chairman for the convention. With the convention so close I do hope that many of our members can attend. Remember that there will be no MCR convention that year so that should help your financial planning.

In the report from National there is an item about the borders of the various regions being redefined. The Mid Central Region was affected by this, a few counties in Indiana were moved to adjacent regions. In all cases this was brought to the attention of the Presidents of the affected Regions. The changes really made lots of sense as some members are now organizationally aligned with nearby groups instead of more distant MCR cities.



Get Em While You Can

The iconic "C&O" style signals are disappearing fast, being re-placed by the new tubular traffic structures. Here at Meadow Creek, WV on Sept. 29, 2012 a set of GEs passes below the signal. He had cut off his train of MTs to get on the west end. Ominously the signals at the west end of the yard are the new ones. Digital image by DJ Mulhearn

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

All aboard! All aboard the westbound "Sportsman" as we embark on a new journey for the folks in Division 9. We are leaving our base headquarters at West Virginia Hobby and Craft at Putnam Village and moving to the Saint Albans C&O depot just down the line (or road, if you will). We thank Chuck Wiley and his staff for their gracious hospitality over the last few years that the hobby shop has been our home. It is with mixed emotions that we depart. However, it is with much expectation that we begin the next phase of our trip up the Coal Division.

As we attempt to expand the educational nature of our organization, the unofficial and informal blending of our group with that of the Saint Albans C&O Modelers and Museum will be a boost for both organizations. More importantly, it will be of benefit to "the beautiful old girl." While SACOMM is, and has been, "caretaker of the depot", we will come onto the scene as "friends of the depot." We may call the station our "official clubhouse," and will be operating our meetings under the wing of the parent governing body. We have discussed some items to include in a legal, though informal, agreement as to our role, responsibilities, and usage of the facility. Our lawyer friend in Cleveland will help us prepare the document and have it for review by the St. Albans guys so everyone is on the same page, so to speak.

Our newest member, Matt Crouch, has been involved with the restoration and preservation of the building for many years. It was he who announced our new friendship at the September meeting in Portsmouth, Ohio. Several of our bunch are members of both clubs and, maybe, many others will seek dual membership. A few of our members in the southeastern part of our state are associat-

ed with the old N&W depot at Bramwell, West Virginia home of the "million dollar" mine owners homes. My family attended the Christmas tour a few years ago, and enjoyed snacks at the open house held at the station. It was then I noticed the traveling historic mural display we used at our 2009 convention. The educational role of a depot is certainly noted there.

Thus, it is on this note that we look for the change in venue and the enhancement of educational opportunities for our non-profit assembly. We may address such activities as flea markets, trackside cook outs (Hobo Days?), open houses, school tours, reenactments, clinics, mini-conventions, and a dozen other things: all we need do is think of them. In so doing, we address the educational component required of us by the NMRA and federal government.

Our dues or fees will be more fun than work. We may work on displays, work on the O gauge layout, create a "timesaver" switching layout to be used at shows, and help keep the place clean and up to snuff. We are looking at adopting a wall (exterior) for refurbishing. Matt and I discussed the west end with the loading platform as our project. The wood to trim out the porch and other items are there, and it would be a good place to start.

Our first meeting will be in January of 2013, and we'll talk more about things as we go along. The tracks are 12 feet from our door, and that alone should make for great fun. The HO layout is just a couple blocks away, and open for work and fellowship. Come out and join us on this new adventure!

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 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. Here are the deadlines for the next few issues.

November	October 29
December	November 26
January	December 31
February	January 28

FUTURE MEETINGS

The October meeting will be on the 13th back at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts. We have talked Gary Burdette into giving the clinic on passenger cars he recently gave at the C&O Historical Society convention.

November 10 we will be in Bluefield, WV at the NRHS Pocahontas Chapter train show. Since there will be so much to see, there is no point in a clinic.

December 8 we will be back at West Virginia Hobbies and Crafts for our last meeting at that location. We do not yet have a clinician but Coal Division member Dan Kennedy will host an open house after the meeting. Dan's layout, while not large, is very well done with award winning scenery and structures.

As noted in Gary's column, starting in 2013 we will be moving our home base to the C&O Depot in St. Albans, WV. While Gary notes the opportunities for education and other programs, this venue is also a wonderful environment for clinics as we have seen during the meetings we have held there. We should now be proud to invite speakers from other Divisions to join us knowing that the room is the right size with all the appropriate amenities. We also hope to bring back some lapsed members who might have not thought much of the previous meeting environment.

Please be thinking about clinics. Let Dan Mulhearn know if you have something to share or if there is something you want to hear about.

WEBMASTER REPORT

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Activity for most of the past two years is shown below. Page views, the numbers reported here, seem to have dropped considerably this year. I'm not at all sure why but there it is. On the other hand, look at the annual figures and an extrapolation through the end of 2012 would suggest about 50000 page views. The spike in 2010 was almost certainly due to the convention but we are still seeing web site activity above the pre-convention levels.

The most popular pages continue to be the layout photos although the convention pages, still up and active for convention planners to consult, are also very active. The newsletters do not seem to be getting much traffic.

January 2011	5906
February	5533
March	4849
April	5259
May	5406
June	5077
July	4730
August	6630

September	5536
October	5247
November	4069
December	4517
January 2012	4640
February	4562
March	5083
April	4221
May	4089
June	3602
July	3620
August	4358
September	4997

Full year page views 2008 to 2011, year to date for 2012

2008	31799
2009	47426
2010	74746
2011	62999
2012 thru September	39172

Here's something you don't see every day! NS is moving one of the huge Schnabel cars across the James River en route to the port of Norfolk. Of course NS being NS they made sure to have one of the heritage units on the move.. According to those present it took more than twenty minutes for the move to cross the bridge. Photo provided by Derek Wimberly.



NMRA InfoNet News Gerry Leone MMR

Welcome to the second Post-Convention edition of the NMRA InfoNet News! This eblast will contain all the Grand Rapids convention information that didn't make it into last month's edition, plus some other exciting news.

After several years of work by incoming NMRA Secretary John Stevens, all U.S. Region boundaries are now defined by state and county boundaries, rather than zip codes. This will help keep boundaries stable as the U.S. Post Office continues to redefine its zip code areas.

Michiana Division co-founder Jim Six, a college professor and experienced education expert, has agreed to lead a team charged with developing a standardized clinic format that will help ensure consistency and uniformity for clinics being made available to Divisions and Regions. The format will be based upon the one currently in use in the Michiana Division of the Midwest Region.

Following the recommendation of Standards & Conformance Department head Didrik Voss, MMR, the Board directed that all eight DCC-related Recommended Practices now become NMRA Standards. Further, in the future the issuance of a Conformance Warrant is not to be influenced by Recommended Practices but will be based solely on adherence to applicable NMRA Standards.

President Charlie Getz appointed outgoing president Mike Brestel to replace Larry DeYoung, who retired as publisher of NMRA Magazine. Charlie also announced that Mike has also agreed to serve as assistant to the president to ensure a smooth transition between administrations.

Chief Financial Officer Frank Koch reported that the attendance of the National Train Show in Grand Rapids was the fourth best ever, and that Saturday's attendance exceeded Sacramento's of the same day. In addition, there were three more booths sold at Grand Rapids than Sacramento.

Looking ahead to next year's convention in Atlanta, the "Peachtree Express" team reports that it's putting the finishing touches on a series of short videos featuring selected layouts that will be on tour during the convention. The videos will be posted to YouTube and will be able to be accessed from links on <http://www.nmra2013.org/>

The Peachtree team is also proud to announce that there will be a number of Civil War-related tours – both rail-related and general interest – as well as a "Civil War track."

And it's not too soon to be thinking about the 2014 convention! The Cleveland Convention's website is now up and running and taking registrations at www.2014cleveland.org.

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 or in NMRA Magazine.

*Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director*

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Bob Weinheimer MMR

Paperwork for Dan Kennedy (Structures) and Tony Puccini (Chief Dispatcher) are in the approval process, I hope to hear soon that they have been accepted.

Keep up the good work. While you are at it, please consider preparing a clinic as a way of sharing your modeling experience with the membership. You might just

inspire somebody else to leave their comfort zone and try something new. If you think to, try taking photos as you go along while building a model. That will make a clinic and a newsletter article much easier to write and to comprehend. I know I'm bad about doing that so do as I say, not as I do!

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
The Coal Division
Mark Maynard's Portsmouth, OH
September 8, 2012

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:57 by Supt Bob Weinheimer. Bob thanked Mark for hosting the September meeting once again this year and welcomed members of Division 6.

Attendees introduced themselves. Today's meeting is a joint meeting of Division 6 and Division 9 of the MCR.

Division Clerk Report

Minutes from May meeting approved as printed in the newsletter.

Superintendent Report

Bob gave the floor to Matt Crouch, who recently joined Division 9. Matt gave a short history of the St. Albans depot and how the idea of Division 9 holding meetings there came about. As part of this arrangement members have the opportunity to do some "1 to 1" structure modeling, as Bob put it, referring to some much needed maintenance to the depot. Meetings will be held on alternating months.

Bob Fink is looking for clinicians for the 2013 MCR convention in Dayton, OH.

The MCR Board meeting will be held on September 23 in Columbus, OH.

David Robinette is still recuperating.

Former Division 6 member and Grafton and Greenbrier employee John Baker, a United States Naval Academy graduate (class of 2000) lost his battle with cancer. Division 9 members Gary Burdette and Jerry Doyle were in attendance at his funeral and committal on the grounds of the Academy on September 7.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary mentioned the potential of using the depot and ways to promote the achievement program.

Achievement Program

Mark Maynard received his certificate for Electrical Engineer. Dan Kennedy has applied for Master Builder Structure and Tony Puccini has applied for Chief Dispatcher.

Newsletter

Dan mentioned several other newsletters he receives. Dave Stout commented on the high quality of our newsletter.

Clinic Chair

October's meeting is covered but future clinic slots are open.

Travels with Dennis

Dennis discussed the trip to Romney. This June the trip will be on the Hocking Valley in Nelsonville, OH.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements**Next Meetings**

October 13 WV Hobbies & Crafts

November 10 Bluefield Show

December 8 WV Hobbies & Crafts

Clinic:

Operations of the Crusty Mountain and Willoby Springs RR.

Contest – Photos

Respectfully Submitted

Jerry Doyle, MCR Division 9 Clerk

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

I hope you will forgive some musings this month. I fear I am being bitten anew by the “private road” bug. Over the years I have chosen to model many prototypes; the first being the New Haven back in my high school days. Very briefly I considered a what if scenario with the Long Island RR. What if the deep water port at Montauk which was the dream of Austin Corbin, one of the LI’s founders had come to be. Import and export traffic would be sped to connections with the large PRR yards on the west shore of the Hudson. I actually painted and decaled an early Athearn GP30 in Long Island grey and orange. Nope, if that traffic existed PRR would have simply incorporated the LIRR into it’s system rather than treating it as an unwanted step child. At the age of 16, the first time I ever got off Long Island, I fell in love with the former ERIE Delaware Division between Port Jervis, NY and Binghamton, NY. I began collecting everything ERIE and EL and still have some very crudely hand painted Varney F unit bodies in a box somewhere. But then along came Allen McClelland’s V&O articles in **Railroad Model Craftsman** and then Tony Koester’s Allegheny Midland. The bug bit bad, I had to have my own road and over some time developed what be-came the Central New England. Starting with a base of the real CNE before the New Haven gobbled it up; I developed a system using real roads which actually existed or were planned

connecting Portland, ME: Boston, MA, New York, Montreal, Buffalo and Harrisburg, PA. But, how to tap in to all the southern traffic? Ah ha, the PRR never got it’s hands on the Cumberland Valley, which met the CNE at Harrisburg. Eventually the CV expanded southbound as far as Clifton Forge, VA. In 1968 the CNE purchased and folded the CV into the now rather inaptly named Central New England System. CNE made it’s money interchanging with CSX at Clifton Forge and Hagerstown as well as N&W at Hagerstown competing with Conrail for all that traffic headed northeast. Well then by gobbling up Conrail NS and CSX, at least in my mind, turned CNE into a bridge line to nowhere. That was in 2000 and I began to model N&W/NS planning on modeling the Pocahontas subdivision circa 1968 and 2000. But, darn that pesky bug! I see the Pennsylvania Southern, the G&G, the Midland Atlantic and the others. I don’t know yet what is going to play out here; but the atlases and maps are out. Let’s see, how can I connect the ports of Savannah and Charleston, SC to the PS, the G&G, the MA? How does Seaboard & Ohio, or the Tidewater & Ohio sound? What might a color scheme involving Confederate gray and reefer orange look like? So much to muse over, who knows? Stay tuned and we will find out together where, if anywhere, this is going.



Central New England GP38 2012 passes by the yard office, unfortunately I can not remember who’s layout I took the photo on. At any rate 2012 displays the final CNE paint scheme and shows the typical CNE roof mounted bell, stub-by Nathan M5 horn and spark arrestors. I had just begun planning how to adapt this scheme to newer safety cab units when I gave up on the private road concept.

Slide by DJ Mulhearn

2013 MID CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

The 2013 Mid Central Region convention will be in Dayton, hosted by Division 3, May 15 to 18. This convention starts Wednesday instead of the usual Thursday and will have an emphasis on operations but not at the expense of other interests. Tony Koester will be leading an operations boot camp and will be the banquet speaker.

There is quite a list of places to visit in the Dayton area including the Museum of the United States Air Force. It’s still a bit early to have all tour information available, look for that in the MCR Kingpin which should be out in January. In the meantime, advance registration is available, see the details at www.mcr2013convention.com.

Now that Up The Holler is a monthly publication, your Pike Ad support is much more important. If you don't already have an ad, please consider buying one. We can help with the art work if necessary.



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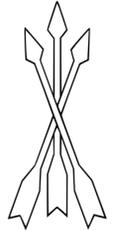
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THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

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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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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 Events

October 13

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

November 10

**NRHS Pocahontas Chapter Train Show
Bluefield, WV**

December 8

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

January 12

**St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV**