



# UP THE HOLLER

## Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

### Mid Central Region NMRA

January 2013



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#### HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

As I write this column, 2012 is about to fade into history. The new year offers the Coal Division many opportunities. Of course, we will be moving to our new meeting location at the St. Albans WV depot but take a look at Gary Burdette's column on the next page for more ideas.

At our December meeting we used Dan Mulhearn's hot spot capabilities to give us some internet access. That allowed us to demonstrate how to make a donation to the NMRA Gallery Exhibit Project. In the process I made a donation while keeping prying eyes off my credit card number. More recently I, as did all NMRA members, received a letter and pledge form from NMRA President Charlie Getz seeking donations to this outstanding cause. For more on this project please see last month's *Up The Holler*. If you are uncomfortable making a donation on the NMRA web site, please consider using the pledge form included in that letter. Recall that the Coal Division will match your donation up to \$13.00. Just send Jerry Doyle a copy of the e mail you receive in response to an online donation; or a copy of the letter you receive for a snail mail donation. He will need these to document the match for his records.

We had heard a number of members say they had never seen the NMRA web site and for a while Gary and I thought a tour of the web site might make a good clinic. While that sounded good at the time, the new Information Technology manager for the NMRA is in the process of redesigning the site, something that is very much needed. Perhaps after the redesign is done a tour would be more appropriate. In the meantime, feel free to take your own tour, there are lots of good things there.

I'm one of the old folks who likes to read real newspapers. Amazingly, Charleston still has two daily papers that I read in dead tree form every morning. December 31 must have been a slow news day as the *Charleston Daily Mail* had numerous articles reprinted from other newspapers around West Virginia. My eye was caught by a photo of the NS Interstate Railroad heritage unit in an article titled "Bluefield is hub for train fans". The article, originally printed in the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, describes the NS heritage unit project and includes an interview with Coal Division member Kelley Massie in his role as president of the Pocahontas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. I don't know how long the story will stay on line but here is a link that worked as of Dec. 31: <http://bdtonline.com/local/x1633438488/ITR-heritage-locomotive-draws-photographers-to-area>

Let me close by wishing all Coal Division members and friends a very happy 2013. See you at the St. Albans Depot January 12!

#### MEETING NOTICE

The January meeting of the Coal Division will be held on Saturday, January 12 at the St. Albans, WV C&O depot. The depot is located at Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue. Social hour and any needed Achievement Program judging starts at 1PM and the meeting will be at 2PM. The clinic this month will be presented by Matt Crouch on the history of the depot and the C&O in St. Albans. The monthly contest will be cabooses. Don't forget to give yourself time to stop by the hobby shop. **Note that the Nitro-St. Albans Bridge will be closed starting January 7 for a major reconstruction effort.** If you plan to have lunch in Nitro before the meeting, please plan a new way to St. Albans via I-64 or the Dunbar bridge.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

Happy New Year! Hopefully your new years resolutions will be ones you can keep. Also, as has been said, "May this year be a whole lot better than the last." For Division 9, our move to a new location in the St. Albans depot has every indication that our resolution to draw new members to group and expand our educational outreach to the public will be successful, and this upcoming year can be more fulfilling than the last.

With the change in venue, we have the opportunity to re-renew our Division through an expansion of all the things we have been doing the past few years resulting in our growth and resurgence to our current level.

It has been exciting to meet new people, host a convention, take railfan outings, have interesting meetings with great friendships, good clinics and all the good things that have resulted from everyone in the Coal Division being a family. We really do get along. The "old girl" will make a nice new home and our favorite hobby shops and eateries are just down the road. The toy trains are in the building (the HO Layout is a couple of blocks away) and the prototype is just twelve feet from our door. Yes, we are set up for some great fun.

Now, what about the crux of our resolution which we have been discussing for a couple of years. That involves the development of a real educational program which will reach the public and impact them through opportunities to experience railroad activities which they would not otherwise have. Our booth at the Dunbar and Bluefield train shows has placed our name before people outside our group. John Harris' recently constructed backdrop really enhances our presence and image at these functions. It is likely that it will be on display at the depot so visitors and tour groups will be made aware of our existence. Our web site has received many hits as individuals from all over check us out. Many people beyond the Division read *Up The Holler*. So, what is next?

The depot itself is a draw along with the wonderful artifacts housed there. The SACOMM members can and do provide a wealth of information to visitors to the depot. Hopefully we can become good partners in education with them whenever possible. We are not expected to just scrape and paint to earn our keep, but to become a vital part of and asset to the depot and all it represents. We are expected not only to use the depot as a meeting place but as a springboard to other railroad related activities. This may be with our Division, or when appropriate, teamed up with SACOMM, the Colis P Huntington Historical Society or the other groups who use the depot for a variety of railroad events such as Founders Day, the reading of Polar Express and the visit of Santa Claus. I am sure our presence and help here would be welcomed and appreciated. The HO layout, though recently slowed in

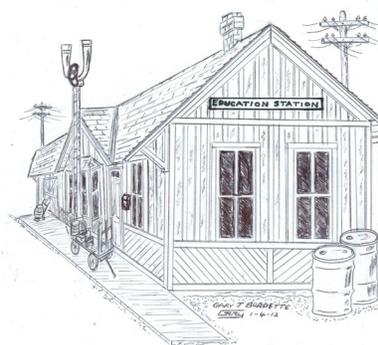
construction, provides an opportunity for us to help SACOMM get it up and running for public viewing. This will

also provide those of us who do not have a layout the chance to work on projects for AP certificates and just enjoy running trains. Maybe a clinic or two could be generated with hands on experience on the layout. There will be a SACOMM meeting at 11AM on the day of our meeting and I hope to bring up these issues at that time. So, what will we do?

I recently received an email from a division in Australia which has developed some activities related to the NMRA Education and Training Program of which I have spoken. For example a clinic on how to build a scenic display using a small piece of foam board with dirt, sticks, rocks and other easily obtainable items. We could donate some of our old kits and invite the public to build or weather a car; and there are numerous other possibilities. We may consider an annual Boy Scout Merit Badge Day. Matt suggested a modular layout which might be set up in the depot a couple of times a year, perhaps a loop with a switching contest layout. The public could be invited to try their hand. Tony Puccini suggested a traveling railroad which could be set up at shows, malls, schools, etc. to peddle our wares. Perhaps, we could brainstorm and prepare a list or hierarchy of our needs.

I will duplicate the information I have obtained as a member of the Education and Training Committee and the items I have developed as Division Education Chairman and make them available for your examination. While there have been ongoing reports; some may wish to read the complete document to develop your own ideas. As the new Managing Editor of the *Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society E Newsletter*, I can offer our members an opportunity to have their articles published for AP points. This also puts us in a position to be partners in education with the COHS as well.

I have asked the question, "So, what is next?" So, what will we do? A few ideas have been tossed out on the first one. The answer to the second one is up to us; what are we willing to do?



**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9**  
**The Coal Division**  
**Teays Valley, WV**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03PM by Superintendent Bob Weinheimer and an attendance sheet was circulated and completed.

**Division Clerk Report:** The minutes of the November 2012 Division meeting, as they appeared in the newsletter were accepted on a motion by Dennis McGeeney, seconded and approved. In the absence of Jerry Doyle there was no treasury report.

**Superintendents Report:** Bob spoke on the candidates for the NMRA World Wide Director office soon to be vacated by Tony Koester. The names mentioned, with a brief bit of information on each, were Mike Brestel, Larry Smith, Stan Ames and Leslie Eaton. Bob asked all members to make sure their email address with both National and the Division are current. The NMRA Gallery Exhibit program was brought up and discussed.

**Asst. Superintendents Report:** Gary spoke on his continuing efforts in the education and public outreach area, particularly with regard to opportunities presented by our move to the St Albans depot. He also mentioned the availability of shirts embroidered with the Division logo and some interesting web sites to visit.

**Achievement Program:** Tony Puccini earned Chief Dispatcher, Dan Kennedy has earned Scenery

**Membership Chair:** John Harris mentioned and greeted new members and thanked members for their kind com-

ments on the Division display backdrop he had built.

**Newsletter Chair:** Dan mentioned that articles and feed back are needed and appreciated.

**Clinic Chair:** Today's clinic to be a visit to Dan Kennedy's layout, January will be Matt Crouch on the St Albans depot. Beyond that clinics are needed.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

**Announcements:** Nathan Robinette reported on his dad's continuing recovery efforts and told us he has an upbeat attitude. Jerry Doyle's mom is hospitalized with a bad infection and will be going to a halfway house prior to going home. Matt Crouch said that Scott Cyrus is looking for a home for his 4 X 20 HO modular steel mill complex. The Division presented Chuck Willey with a certificate of appreciation along with a gift certificate for Diehl's Restaurant in recognition of his support and hospitality.

**Contest:** category was modelers choice and the winner was Paul Lapointe's water tank.

**Clinic:** Bob Weinheimer gave a brief mini clinic on accessing the NMRA web site to donate to the Gallery Exhibit Program. This was followed by a visit to Dan Kennedy's home layout.

**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 part of an operations boot camp series of clinics and operating events and will be the banquet speaker.

There will be several operating sessions and in a change from the usual MCR format they will be scattered throughout the duration of the convention. This means that the diehard operators might get to run on more than the usual one layout.

Taking a page from national conventions, there will

be a Building with the Masters session. Several Master Model Railroaders (Gary Burdette among them) will work with the attendees to build a small laser cut wood model of a chapel. This is an extra fare event to cover the cost of the kit.

There will be numerous clinics of all sorts including several from Coal Division members.

There is quite a list of places to visit in the Dayton are 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](http://www.mcr2013convention.com).

## NMRA InfoNet News

### Gerry Leone MMR

Welcome to the December issue of the NMRA InfoNet News!

Donations for “The Magic of Scale Model Railroading” Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum are continuing to pour in. Among the more noteworthy are:

The World’s Greatest Hobby campaign has pledged \$50,000 toward the Exhibit.

Cincinnati Division 7, in the Mid-Central Region, has pledged \$15,000 toward the Exhibit.

Current pledge and donation totals are now over \$200,000, but the NMRA still needs to raise an additional \$50,000 to meet the \$250,000 “matching challenge pledge” by an anonymous donor. If you, your Division or Region, have any questions about the exhibit, please contact Howell Day Museum Committee Chairman Allen Pollock at 573-619-8532. You can contribute via the web by visiting [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and clicking on the donation link near the top of the homepage.

The Winter Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Sheraton Suites Galleria-Atlanta, on February 8-10. Although the Board meets in a closed caucus the evening of February 8, the general meeting is open to all NMRA members on February 9 and 10.

Hasea.com, the model railroad association located in China which has aligned itself with the NMRA, has invited the NMRA President and a few other NMRA officials to tour the new, highly restricted Chinese High Speed Rail factory and facilities in February. No foreign visitors have ever had the opportunity to view these facilities before. As you may recall from *NMRA Magazine* articles and blurbs here, Hasea is a network of 100,000 Chinese railfans and modelers. The NMRA Board has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Hasea to share our standards and organizational knowledge.

The Peachtree Express 2013 website has been updated, and now lists all the planned prototype and general interest tours, along with all layout tours. There are photos of each layout, and, in some cases, videos. Visit [www.nmra2013.org](http://www.nmra2013.org) to view the updates, and watch *NMRA Magazine* for Peachtree Express 2013 layout features.

Bill Kaufman, Vice President of Special Projects, is spearheading a new eBulletin concept – an electronic

communication sent by email to interested NMRA members on a regular basis. The project is still in the planning stages, and will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Winter Meeting in February.

I’d like to repeat this important news again this month: John Stevens, the NMRA Secretary, has announced the slate of candidates for the 2013 National elections. Ballots will be in NMRA members’ hands early next year. Candidates are:

At-Large Worldwide Director: - Stan Ames - Mike Brestel - Larry Smith, MMR - Leslie Eaton, MMR

Atlantic District Director: - Alain Kap - Kathy Millatt

Western District Director - Larry Alfred, MMR - Jack Hamilton, MMR

Another item that bears repeating: Western Director Jack Hamilton and his committee are working on a new Long Range Plan for the NMRA. Jack is still looking for input from members, and writes, “The October edition of *NMRA Magazine* put out a general call (“NMRA – Where do the tracks lead?”) to members for input for NMRA strategic planning. There have been a number of excellent responses to the call but not nearly in the numbers that might be suggested by the normal level of grouching and gripes about the organization. This is your opportunity to make a difference and have some direct say in the direction the NMRA takes into our future. This is your organization and your ideas and input will be treated with equal value and respect. Please read the October article and make your desires known to Western District Director Jack Hamilton at [westdir@hq.nmra.org](mailto:westdir@hq.nmra.org) or mail them directly to Jack at 10731 Warren Road NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.”

Lastly, on a personal note, I’ve turned in my resignation as Communications Director, as of the Winter Board meeting next February. It’s been a fun run and I’ve enjoyed it. I don’t exactly know what the fate of these InfoNet News eblasts will be beyond January – that will be up to my successor. So if you or anyone you know would like to apply for the position, please contact President Charlie Getz at [charliegetz@yahoo.com](mailto:charliegetz@yahoo.com).

*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*.*

## TRAVELS WITH DENNIS

### Dennis McGeeney

I would like to remind everyone of the great trip we had to the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad last June. It began with members, families and friends meeting at a fine restaurant for a good meal followed by the beautiful train ride in air conditioned comfort on a former Pennsylvania RR Budd streamlined coach. Many of those who went stayed in the area overnight and enjoyed some of the other fine places to visit in the area. If you missed this trip, you missed a great time. The August 2012 issue of *Up The Holler* has a story and a picture of the group.

This coming June we will have our Division meeting at Nelsonville, OH in a heavyweight passenger car. That will be followed by a meal in a restaurant only one hun-

dred yards away. We will then board the Hocking Valley scenic train for a trip of a lifetime. We will be riding in restored cabooses on this trip. Not everyone has ridden in a caboose and you will be able to ride in the hawk's nest (cupola) or ride the outside platform at either end of the car. Following the train ride we have arranged a tour of the railroad's shop. This is a trip not to miss! In making arrangements for this trip I traveled out to Nelsonville and got to ride the locomotive cab on both the short and long trips. Every month from now until the trip I will be reminding you via this newsletter of this great event. Please see me and watch this newsletter for details as they develop. The price is reasonable at about twenty dollars.



Equipment we will see and ride on the upcoming Hocking Valley trip we are planning for June

Photos by Gary Burdette



## DECEMBER CONTEST WINNER

Paul Lapointe's water tower was the winner of the Modeler's Choice contest at the December meeting.



## RAFFLE UPDATE

### Paul Lapointe

The ever popular raffle event is in need of items. If you have anything that you are willing to donate to the cause please bring them to any meeting. We might not use them that month in order to present a well balanced offering but they will appear soon enough.

Donations can be of any scale or items such as books, timetables, scratchbuilding supplies or anything that may be of interest to modelers and railfans.

The raffle is an important part of the Coal Division's finances as its earnings are just about what it takes to turn out the limited number of printed copies of this publication for those members with poor or no internet access. Let's all pull together to keep this interesting event viable.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

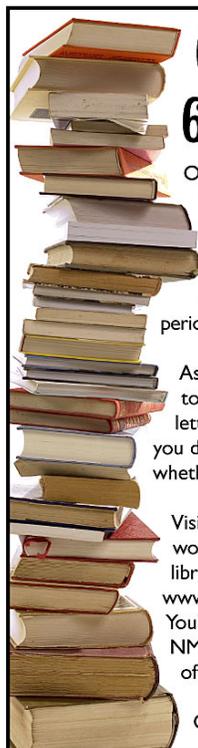
The goal of the newsletter team is to have this document reach you by email or snail mail at least one week prior to our meetings. We typically do the layout work the Wednesday 10 days before the meeting with distribution Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication 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.

February	January 28
March	February 25
April	April 1
May	April 29
June	May 27
July	July 1
August	July 29
September	September 2

## Gene Browning

Those of us who have been to op sessions on Clint Foster's C&O layout know Gene Browning. I am sorry to report that Gene passed away just before Christmas after a long struggle with cancer. Gene was a quiet and gentle man who never complained about his illness and never had a harsh word about anyone. He lived in Natural Bridge VA and had a large basement layout, the Brazos and Pecos which was all hand laid track with home made

fascia mounted turnout operating levers made of coat hanger wire. I was privileged to be at his last op session on the B&P, The Fall Stock Rush, on October 6. Although he was obviously weak and not feeling well he was a genial host, took great pleasure in the op session and never said a word about his illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Pat.



## Check out 6,000 train books.

Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

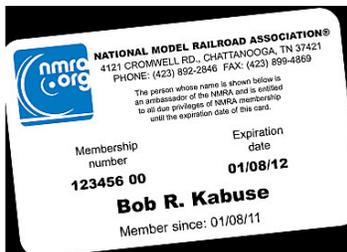
As an NMRA member, you have easy access to everything – it's all just a phone call, letter, or email away. Our staff will even help you do research about virtually any train topic, whether it's model or prototype.

Visit one of the world's largest train libraries at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.

Check it all out!



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**HINTON DIVISION**

Gary Burdette - Superintendent  
Point Pleasant WV



**WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY**

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RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



**NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION**

Clint Foster Superintendent  
Ronceverte WV

Alleghany & 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



John Harris, Chief Engineer  
AandNRR@aol.com



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Holler.

## Upcoming Coal Division Events

**January 12**

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

**February 9**

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

**March 9**

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

**April 13**

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