



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

February 2014



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HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Our January meeting had a different wrinkle. While much of the Kanawha Valley was enduring the water crisis and unable to do anything with the water except flush toilets, St. Albans was a bright spot with its own water system and no contamination problems. We expected to have full water service but had not counted on frozen pipes that required the water supply to the depot to be turned off. In this beautiful oasis of good water we couldn't even flush the toilets! We muddled through and Paul Lapointe presented a great clinic. He has teased us with an as yet unwritten Part 2. I sure hope he gets to work on that one, I am always eager to hear Paul's presentations.

The water situation at the St. Albans Depot has yet to be resolved but Charleston Amtrak Station Master and Coal Division member Matt Crouch has offered the use of the Amtrak Station in Charleston for the February 8 meeting. It took Gary and me about a second to conclude that this was a very good idea. We decided the meeting should have a train station theme. To that end, any contest entrant will receive an Amtrak calendar. If a locomotive is not your thing, you will also earn a calendar if you bring a model of a train station. Matt hopes to give away lots of calendars. There is a large high definition television mounted on one of the walls and my laptop has an HDMI output, so we can use the TV as a screen. Do you have any digital photos of train stations? Bring them on a thumb drive and tell us about them. I can start things off with a few shots of old Pennsy and Reading commuter stations in the Philadelphia area but I don't want to be the only one showing pictures. See the Meeting Notice section below for meeting details.

I hope the water problems in St. Albans can be resolved in time for our March meeting although Matt tells us the Amtrak station can always be used in a pinch.

MEETING NOTICE

NOTE MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The next meeting will be February 8 at the Charleston Amtrak station, 350 MacCorkle Avenue in Charleston. The contest is Electric and Diesel Locomotives including Traction. All contest entrants will receive an Amtrak calendar. Also, anyone bring a model of a train station will also receive a calendar. To carry on with the train station theme, the clinic will be a slide show of railroad stations. Bring your digital photos and tell us about your favorite stations.

Directions: From I-64, use exit 58A, turn left at the light at the end of the ramp, go the bottom of the hill and turn right onto MacCorkle. The station is on the right just before the South Side Bridge.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Gary J. Burdette MMR

There is bad news and good news. And, there is good news and bad news.

As many of you may know by now, upon arrival at the depot for our monthly division meeting, we discovered that the strange sound of the furnace fan running was actually the spray from a broken water pipe. Seven books and some papers, yet to be placed in the library, got soaked. That's the bad news. We got the water shut off and the city is going to patch the pipes. Also, all of the books and papers were dried with blotters, heat, corn starch, and kitty litter. They aren't perfect, but they don't look too bad. This is some good news.

Plus, thanks to all the guys for chipping in to clean up and set up for the meeting: more good news.

This set us back; however, especially after we heard the good news from the mayor (at a recent meeting) that the repairs to the east end of the depot are due to begin in the near future and things were moving forward. Furthermore, the mayor is going to ask the contractor to examine the building and prepare a prioritized list of needed repairs. Now, we'll state the bad news. Rental from parties and other sources of income are at an all-time low. While there is money in the bank, that won't last forever and some fundraising activities must be developed.

The depot is under a division of the Saint Albans C&O Modelers and Museum which has the task of maintaining the structure through minor repairs, raising funds to pay expenses, and keeping the door open as a viable educational operation. The number of individuals working in

this area has dwindled over the years. A new group of supporters must be developed.

While the mayor indicated support and was going to discuss the situation with a local business leader, it will be necessary to rebuild the core or foundation of supporters, helpers, and friends. We have called a "Friends of the Depot" meeting for Saturday February 1, 2014 at 1:00 at the depot. We have a three page outline full of ideas, fundraisers, and events which may help expand interest and participation in operating the station and increasing revenue. This "Partnership in Education" is open to anyone who loves the St Albans Depot and wants to help her "live."

Since this meeting will occur prior to the Coal Division's monthly meeting, I'll be able to report the results of the "Friends" meeting. I will make the idea sheet available so our members may see some of the thoughts presented. At some point I may show my depot power point presentation to our group. If not, I will definitely invite those who are interested to attend a showing to another railroad related group in the near future. Members of Division 9 will also be invited to help, if they wish, in any activity or event that the "Friends" may schedule.

The goal will be to build a team (from interested model railroaders, railfans, business leaders, or other interested persons) to "save" the depot. The motto is: **THINK DEPOT.**

Finally, there will be an Education Committee meeting at 1:30 prior to the February division meeting.

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.

March	February 24
April	March 31
May	April 28
June	June 2
July	June 30
August	July 28
September	September 1
October	September 29
November	October 27

RAFFLE REPORT

Paul Lapointe

The raffle at January's meeting took in \$39.

February's meeting will feature another raffle, hopefully with a variety of donated items.

MY WORD

Dan Mulhearn, Editor

Let's start this month off with a quick product review. On my last monthly pilgrimage to Mecca; whoops I mean Chuck's hobby store, I picked up a four pack of Athearn outside braced ballast hoppers in blaze orange with NS markings. These are obviously the old MDC Roundhouse cars but they have been considerably updated. All the grab irons are added separately, not cast in to the body as they used to be. There are even air lines attached to the various brake valves and tanks at the B end of the car. The cars are marked and numbered in the NS H46 series which are modern 100 ton ballast hoppers. Unfortunately the car is obviously an older 70 ton car. That's OK, they will look great weathered and sitting in a work train out tying up the railroad somewhere. The cars weigh 3.4 OZ. which is 1.1 OZ. too light for NMRA RPs. The list price for the four pack is \$107.98 although the price was a lot lower thanks to Chuck's discounting. Down in the basement I have one of these cars in it's older MDC Roundhouse kit issue. It was purchased in 1995 and is marked \$4.50!

Enjoyed some good model railroading this month, although the weather cancelled an op session on Tom Harris' Lakeside Lines last Saturday evening. The January op

session on Bob's Pennsylvania Southern was one of the better ones in a while. With Russ dispatching we filled up the entire train sheet! There was a good sized group in attendance as well. This past Friday I made the journey to Appomattox, VA for an op session on Bob Burke's Sandy Creek & Southern. Both the Sandy Creek mainline and the Southern main line are fully signaled with separate dispatchers panels on three lap tops using JMRI Panel-Pro. The dispatchers control all switches and signals, however they can turn over switch control to crews working out on the road. I used to work the 401/402 Riverside Turn which was such a challenging job that it has since been split into two separate turns. The session prior to this one I worked the west end of Bedford Yard. That job breaks down arriving trains, clears the interlocking for arriving and departing trains and adds and removes cars from through passenger trains. The other night I got the East Yard at Bedford which is a rather challenging job. That job makes up freights, moves power in and out of the engine facility and lines the interlocking for trains arriving from the east staging yard. The lead for yard tracks 10 to 12 crosses over the leads for the engine terminal and yard tracks 5 to 9. Model Railroading is FUN!

CONTEST REPORT

Paul Lapointe

January's Contest was for non-revenue cars including cabooses. There were four entries: two vehicles from Larry Richards, a caboose from Gary Burdette and a track-cleaning car from Paul Lapointe.

Larry won both 1st and 2nd place with his Track Repair truck and Inspection car respectively.

February's contest category is Diesel and electric locomotives and traction.

Photo by Paul Lapointe



NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
St Albans Depot St Albans, WV
January 11, 2013
Minutes

Meeting Called to order at 2:00

Superintendent Report

Bob welcomed Jim and Bob Porterfield from Elkins to our meeting. Members introduced themselves. Bob mentioned details of the Mid Central Region Convention in Cleveland and the Division 2 mini jamboree in Pittsburgh April 26.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$8,560.57
The proceeds from the raffle were \$39.

Nominating Committee

Ballots must be received by March 8, 2014. Mail ballots are required by our constitution. Bill thanked Dennis McGeeney for his help.

Nominees are Gary Burdette for Superintendent. Two for Assistant Superintendent; Dan Mulhearn and Bob Osburn. The Superintendent opened the meeting for nominations from the floor. No further nominations were offered and nominations were closed.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Gary showed plans from Bob Osburn. Some materials were damaged due to the water line break in the depot. He mentioned using baggage carts for displays. He told about the Santa night at the depot. Gary has explored working with the COHS and SACOM. He showed the COHS e-newsletter and articles by Herb Parsons and David Robinette. Gary and Matt will be meeting with the mayor about the progress on depot repairs and potential grant opportunities.

Membership Chair

Chair was absent.

Achievement Program

Bob mentioned the opportunity for author points in the COHS e-newsletter.

Newsletter Chair

Dan thanked Bob for his help with the newsletter. Topics on many subjects would be welcome for future issues.

Raffle

Paul mentioned the raffle would be held today.

Clinic Chair

No future clinics are on the slate as of now.

Old Business

None

New Business

Bill Wadsworth mentioned some potential changes to the constitution. Bob asked that he prepare changes and present them at a future meeting.

Announcements

Jim Porterfield discussed the Center for Rail Tourism which he chairs at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV.

Future Meetings

February 8 St. Albans Depot
March 8 St. Albans Depot
April 12 St. Albans Depot
May 3 Parkersburg, WV
June 14 Joint with Division 6, Marion, OH
July Date To Be Determined Elkins, WV

Meeting adjourned 2:47

Respectfully submitted,

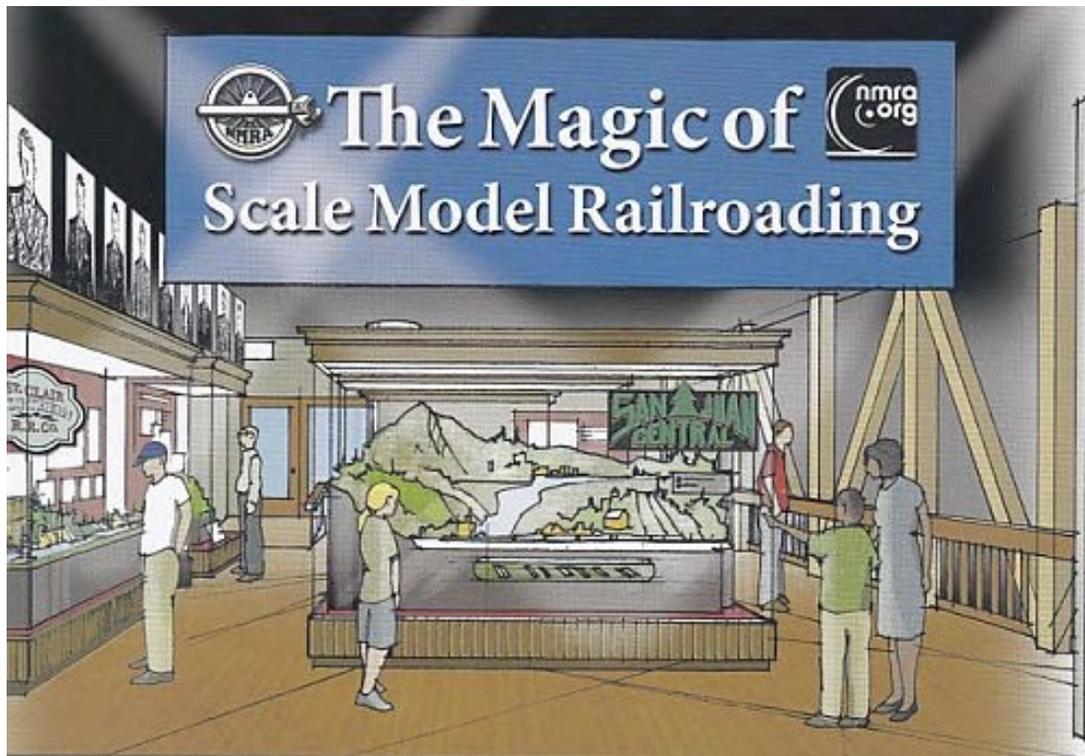
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

NMRA CLEVELAND 2014

Mark July 13 –20 on your calendar, the NMRA National convention is as close as it has been to the Coal Division in almost 10 years.

What is a National convention? Think of it as a week long Regional convention with five to ten times as many attendees. There will be more clinics than you can count, many presented by nationally known modelers who are just as anxious to meet other modelers as those other modelers are to meet them. There are numerous layout tours, operating sessions, and tours to such places as the Age of Steam Roundhouse. Check the latest issue of NMRA Magazine or go to www.2014cleveland.org for full details.

As if that is not enough, at the end of the week your convention registration gets you into the National Train Show for no extra cost. Act soon to get your preferred tours and hotel arrangements.



Please consider donating to the NMRA Gallery project. We all recently received another mailing requesting donations and while it may seem like HQ is always looking for money, if each NMRA member donated only \$10 the project would be fully funded.

NMRA INFONET

eBay GivingWorks Program

The NMRA participates in eBay's GivingWorks program. GivingWorks allows eBay users to donate a portion of winning auction prices to their favorite charity. Here is how it works. When you are selling any item on eBay, simply specify the 'National Model Railroad Association' as your chosen charity. Set a percentage of the final selling price to donate and let eBay do its work. If your item sells, the percentage you pre-select goes to the NMRA, and you keep the balance. An additional benefit to the seller is that eBay will reduce your final listing fees by the same percentage. If you donate 25% of the final auction price to the NMRA and your item was \$100, the NMRA receives \$25, you receive \$75 and your final listing fees from eBay are reduced by 25%.

Does it have to be train related items for sale? No, past winning auctions have included cell phones, iPhones, toner, calendars, manuals, and of course trains.

You can even donate directly from the NMRA GivingWorks page.

So now, if you are changing eras, selling unused rolling stock or upgrading your latest smartphone, sell it on eBay and specify the NMRA as your favorite charity.

Simply start by visiting <http://givingworks.ebay.com>, enter 'National Model Railroad Association' in the search box in the upper left corner and the rest is easy.

Alan Anderson
Fundraising Dept. Manager

NMRA mid-year (Winter) Board of Directors Meeting:

The NMRA Board of Directors will hold their annual mid-year (Winter) Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas, NV from Friday, 2-14-14 to Sunday, 2-16-14.

The meeting will be held at the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, 3555 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone: 702-733-3111.

The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 pm Friday, 2-14-14 and the Board of Directors will be in caucus that evening (Board and invited guests only). The regular BOD meeting begins at 9:00 am on Saturday, 2-15-14 and is scheduled to run until late afternoon on Sunday, 2-16-14. All members are invited to attend the open sessions.

Regards,

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA
Director – Support Services

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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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
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

February 8

**Charleston Amtrak Station
350 MacCorkle Avenue SE
Charleston, WV**

March 8

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

April 12

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