



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Mid Central Region NMRA

August 2015



DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent
Dan Mulhearn
304-466-9188
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Clerk - Jerry Doyle
304-638-2826
clerk@coaldivision.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen
Ed Keith MMR
740-867-5264
Bob Weinheimer MMR
304-343-1428
ap@coaldivision.org

Clinic
Robert Osburn
clinic@coaldivision.org

Contest
Dennis McGeeney
304-872-7262

Education
Gary Burdette MMR
304-675-3909
asstsuper@coaldivision.org

Election
Bill Wadsworth
304-768-3266
nominating@coaldivision.org

Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle
Dennis McGeeney
304-872-7262

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR

From the Head the Holler By Gary J. Burdette, MMR

Striking a balance: that is the descriptor for physical laws and man's desire for perfection. Whether it is the functioning of our ecosystem or a working woman's attempt to fulfill the needs her of career, her family, and herself, natural laws and personal goals, often work best when a balance is struck. This equilibrium between possible opposing forces has been my goal as Superintendent of the Coal Division and Director of the C&O St. Albans Depot.

Rather than putting the interests of one group over another, I hope we have seen a blending of goals resulting in a partnership. An interesting note during our last meeting was a thought provoking proposal concerning an additional monetary contribution from the Coal Division to the depot operating fund. Keep this in mind as I describe the following. St. Albans C&O Modelers and Museum is the caretaker of the structure (this has been recently stated and confirmed in an on-going grant proposal) and is responsible for obtaining funds for "keeping the lights on." A couple of ways is through fundraising events, rental, and donations.

When the Coal Division came on board it was with the understanding we "do as we can." While compiling data for the grant proposal, I have calculated that members of Division 9 have volunteered approximately 500 man-hours of work, \$500.00 of their own money (for supplies, paint, construction materials, etc.), and around \$200.00 from the division raffle as donations. Congratulations for your good work and thanks for your generosity. Keeping the doors open is important, I believe.

Previously, we had talked, informally, about other possibilities for helping the depot and had the notion (not motion) brought to the floor as an item of information as a result. We will bring this up again, I'm sure. The discussion on this and some other things was lively and enthusiastic. I may have let us get a little over zealous, but I am thrilled with the participation in all areas of the meeting.

Along these lines two things have developed. First, our parliamentarian, Jerry Doyle, will begin a series of columns in Up the Holler to help us (read - me) in smoothing out our business meetings. Secondly, I will be forming a Steering Committee as provided by our constitution and utilized by other divisions, successfully, to discuss similar questions in a more official manner so things are more formalized when brought to the floor. Both should help provide me with tools to do a better job of streamlining the meetings.

As we enjoyed getting together at the Pennsylvania Southern, a new and different venue was experienced. I know a couple of the guys had always wanted to see the layout. I was able to meet a friend of one member, who was visiting, of whom I had heard much about. A couple of the fellows I hadn't seen in a while were in attendance. The raffle and contest went off without a hitch under the watchful eye of our new chair, Dennis McGeeney.

As we "picnic on the platform" this August, the crew has stepped forward to provide all the grub and fixings. This will be an excellent opportunity to get together for a real summertime cookout, visit, and see all the work the city has done to improve the structure of the beautiful old girl. Whenever people populate the building, she is doing her job of providing us with shelter, a place to congregate, and a chance to experience a little railroad history. While not exactly the same role she once portrayed, she is still a center of community activity, though on a limited scale. Come enjoy her and your friends in the Coal Division.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL **Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent**

How is your summer going? It's hard to believe how much we looked forward to the coming of summer and now we are more than half way through it. It won't be long before we hop aboard Amtrak for the trip to the Portland National Convention and when we get home it will be September. I didn't book our room in a timely manner so we will be staying in a river front hotel and have to ride the light rail to the Convention. Should be fun. I am looking forward to upcoming Division events; we will be at the depot for our annual picnic then to Elkins and Portsmouth.

Speaking of Division events; thanks so much to Bob Weinheimer for hosting our July meeting and opening his layout to the members. It was disappointing that my car pool was on a schedule and I didn't get to do a little operating before we left.

There is so much going on in our hobby now. You can get a nice little layout set up for a few hundred dollars or spend a million; either way you will have fun. DCC has made actually running your trains so much simpler. Commercial and even free software have made it possible to simply control signals, switches and even have your own CTC panel on your computer. There are even locomotives with internal battery power coming on the market. Don't forget that a big reason that all these work well together is the standards and practices set up by the NMRA. NMRA has established new standards related item called Layout Command Control (LCC). I am hoping to find out more about it at Portland.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Depot in August. Let me know your thoughts and concerns.

MEETING NOTICE

The August meeting will be at the St. Albans Depot, Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue in St. Albans, WV. This is our annual cookout so the doors will open around 11am with lunch ready by 12:30pm, maybe even a little earlier. The assignments for who brings what were made at the July meeting but if there is something you wish to bring please contact Gary Burdette, his phone and email are on page 1.

The business meeting should start around 2pm. The contest will be Open Loads so bring a freight car with an appropriate visible load. There will also be the usual raffle. The clinic will be a demonstration of the construction of a Fast Tracks turnout by Bob Weinheimer. Bob will also make a short presentation showing the costs associated with these products.

CONTEST **Dennis McGeeny**

First off, all the members of the Coal Division want to thank Bob Weinheimer for the use of his home for our July meeting and the Pennsylvania Southern op session that followed. We had a great turn out and a lot of good ideas talked about by the members. The more talk and getting involved by all the members the more gets done. One of the items talked about and voted on has to do with the monthly contest. It has been decided that all contest entrants will be given one free raffle ticket. Also, one point will be awarded to each contest entrant. At the end of the year the modeler with the most contest points will be recognized by the Division.

Getting to the results of the July 2015 contest, the subject was photographs, prototype and model.

PROTOTYPE PHOTO:

Three way tie for first

Dan Mulhearn WM 3577 at Corriganville MD

Bob Weinheimer CR at Horseshoe Curve

Dennis McGeeny Appalachian & Ohio locomotive
Second Place went to Jerry Doyle S. Central Ohio
4171

There was a two way tie for third place

Gary Burdette photo a loco engineer

Jerry Doyle CSXT 4500

MODEL PHOTO

First Place; Dan Mulhearn Central New England
GP38 2012 at the yard office

Second Place; Walt Mycoff M&M Coal tippie

I am looking forward to our coming meeting and cookout at St. Albans; the contest will be open loads. There was a lot of buzz among the members about going to Elkins in September. The contest there will be coal, logging, chemical, and box cars with and without loads. Some of us are going to stay over night at Elkins to be able to see more of the area.

RAFFLE **Dennis McGeeny**

Paul Lapointe did of fine job of running the raffle for many years and has now stepped up to become MCR contest manager. Yours truly is now the raffle chairman. At the July 2015 meeting six items were raffled off including two buildings which were accompanied by two freight cars. We raised \$41.00. At the meeting it was decided that anyone donating an item for the raffle will be given one free raffle ticket. Everyone is encouraged to donate usable items to the raffle Thank you for your participation.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Bob Weinheimer's House

Charleston, WV

July 11, 2015

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 2:16 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$8,963.17
 June minutes were approved.
 Pike Ads \$50.
 Raffle revenues \$41.
 Three school houses were also sold for the MCR
 \$120 (not Division 9 revenue)

Members introduced themselves, we had one guest.

Superintendent Report

Gary mentioned the idea of members adopting modules for a modular layout. The Bluefield Show will be coming up and a decision will need to be made whether to have a display at the show. There was an interesting article about new innovations in DCC. Depot report: A person is now actively soliciting grants. There has been substantial work on the west end of the depot repairing rotten wood and windows. Volunteers are needed to paint the new work.

Tony Puccini brought up our use of the depot and its ongoing financial needs. He proposed the idea of offering a contribution of \$100 per month to insure our continued use of the depot. His proposal was that the contribution be voted on a monthly basis. Bob Weinheimer asked what the going rate was for other meeting places in St Albans. Tony pointed out that the Division has unlimited access to the depot. Dennis McGeeney raised the point that raffles are donated to the depot. Bob Osburn asked if the mayor knew that the Division was contributing to the depot. Gary said the mayor generally lumps all the railroaders together.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Dan Mulhearn mentioned Dennis McGeeney's ideas for the raffle such as giving a ticket for each contest entry. He said he is anxious to learn about the new DCC standards.

Achievement Program

Nothing new to report. Gary Burdette mentioned receiving his scoring certificate for an entry for the Lexington convention. He was curious if other members who had their entries scored high enough have received their certificates.

Newsletter Chair

The open rate was slightly lower for the most recent newsletter. About half the people who open the email don't open the newsletter.

Clinic Chair

August clinic Bob Weinheimer - FastTracks track building system.

February/March Bob Weinheimer – Operations

Dennis asked about a clinic on locomotive lubrication and maintenance clinics.

Gary Burdette mentioned a system for checking out the clinic DVD's.

Bob Osburn asked about a clinic on prototype signals, Jerry Doyle volunteered to do one in the Spring.

Bob Weinheimer suggested an addition to the agenda for a bring and brag/show and tell or as Gary prefers MADD.

Contest Chair

Dennis McGeeney handed out a sheet with the contest categories for the rest of 2015. He is reinstating the point system for contest entries.

Membership Chair

Gary Burdette had the idea of contacting lapsed members and those who never attend. Bob mentioned they already get the newsletter and contacting these people in addition.

Raffle

Dennis McGeeney showed the items for the raffle. He repaired and detailed several of the models. He also had scale coal. He suggested that anyone who contributes to the contest would receive a ticket and we would give 6 tickets for \$5.

Old Business

None

New Business

The motion passed unanimously to give a raffle ticket for each person entering the

Continued on next page

monthly contest; six raffle tickets for \$5; a raffle ticket for donating items to the raffle.	August 8 – St Albans: Continued from previous page Depot Picnic on the Platform
Support for the depot was discussed. Tony Puccini's recommendation was discussed further.	September 19 – Elkins, WV. October 10 – Portsmouth, OH November 14 – Bluefield, WV
Announcements	
The auction of Howard Smith's railroad items will be July 18 in Columbus, Ohio, the announcement is in the current newsletter.	Meeting adjourned 3:27 p.m.
Future Meetings	Respectfully submitted, Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

Robert's Rules of Order Jerry Doyle, Clerk – Division 9

Since recently being recruited by our superintendent to be the parliamentarian for the Division, I thought it might be helpful to have a quick primer on Robert's Rules of Order (Robert's).

Let's start with a quick quiz. Which of these is correct?

Robert's Rules of Order:

Was developed by US ARMY Colonel Henry Robert.
Is over 150 years old.
Is loosely based on the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.
Is used by most organizations as a way to conduct meetings.

The answer: ALL of the above are correct.

Just exactly who Robert was isn't important and we can only hope that our organization uses these rules more effectively than Congress.

The purpose of Robert's is to make meetings as productive and efficient as possible by fostering orderly discussion while at the same time not limiting what is discussed if the members deem it appropriate. There are two basic rules for starters. The meeting is governed by 1) the agenda and 2) the Chair (in our case Superintendent). The agenda is set before the meeting and anyone wanting to have discussion of an issue should see that their item is put on the agenda. For our purposes the agenda is set by the Superintendent and distributed at the meeting.

The agenda can be structured in any form the membership endorses but typically has this order:

call to order
approval of minutes

reports from officers
reports from committees
new business/recommendations
announcements
adjournment

If a member has an item that isn't on the agenda, it can be suspended at any time by a vote of the members to consider an item from the floor. If a majority vote in favor, the agenda stops and the special item is considered. The idea of the agenda is that items are only brought up once to avoid wasting time. It is proper for any member to ask if a speaker is staying on topic. The chair decides whether it is related or not.

The Chair/Superintendent runs the meeting by recognizing people during discussion. Anyone wanting to participate in the discussion should first be recognized by the chair. Raising one's hand is the best way to request recognition from the chair. The chair's role is only to facilitate discussion and not to censor it. Parties are recognized in the order they ask to speak and can be recognized a second time only after everyone has had a chance to speak. It's common for the Chair to ask if there is further discussion to assure everyone who wishes has spoken.

Once discussion is concluded a vote on the issue is taken. It's most often a voice vote which the chair calls. Any member can ask for a division of the house (a show of hands) if they feel the call of the vote was in question. The Chair doesn't vote on any issue unless the vote is tied. When there is a question about procedure, the parliamentarian has the final word.

That's probably enough for this month. Stay tuned for another installment of Robert's Rules of Order.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

I want to thank all members who came to the July meeting. It was a pleasure to host you and to show the layout to several first visitors. Others had not been here for a while and they got to see the updates described in the newsletter. Woody Mitchel brought his grandson and together they ran a coal train from one end of the railroad to the other. I was prepared to host some operations but the crowd didn't seem to demand it and I was too busy chatting with the attendees.

It appears I didn't leave myself too much space this month. I have either this smaller spot or it would have been necessary to add two more pages.

You may notice that there are no contest photos this month. If you were at the meeting you know there were many photos entered. As it happened, there were numerous ties for various places. It would not have been appropriate to include some but not all photos but to do all of them at a reasonable size would have made this issue much larger than is feasible for the print version.

Next to this column is a call for clinics for the 2016 NMRA convention in Indianapolis. I know several members got a taste of the national convention last year in Cleveland. Here is another opportunity for Coal Division members to share their skills with a national audience. I have submitted three clinics, I'll try the third one on the Division in the spring before I give it at the MCR convention. The working title is "Evolution of an Operating Scheme".

The next newsletter might be a little later than usual as production will start the day after I return from Portland. That works as the September meeting is scheduled for a week later than usual.

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 start the layout work the Monday 12 days before the meeting. This allows a day of review by the officers and a proofreader before the electronic version is issued, usually on Wednesday. The paper version is mailed Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by that 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.

September	August 31
October	September 28
November	November 2
December	November 30

Highball to Indy, 2016
NMRA National Convention
www.NMRA2016.org

Call for Clinics

If you have ever wanted to present a clinic at the National Convention, now is the time. With the 2016 Convention being held in Indianapolis, it should be a short trip from your home division.

If you have presented a clinic at a local or regional event, run through it again to refresh yourself with the information. Make sure the clinic is up to date. When you're ready to share your information and/or techniques with other modelers, send in the form found under the Clinicians heading at <http://www.nmra2016.org/#!/volunteer/c11z2>

If you have presented a clinic at a National Convention before, bring it to Indianapolis. We would like to see it here.

If you have attended a clinic and thought it was helpful, encourage the presenter to consider presenting it at the National Convention.

Time is running short for the applications. Printing schedules require a long lead-time.

Remember, fill out and send in the form found under the Clinicians heading at <http://www.nmra2016.org/#!/volunteer/c11z2>

Dan Goins
Clinic Chair

Layout Liquidation Time

One time Coal Division member Greg Foster tells us the time has come to sell his layout items. A look back at an Up the Holler article about Greg's Ohio Valley Switching District ([click here](#)) shows it to be based in the 1970s with a heavy Chessie System feel. This article will give you an idea of the items available for purchase.

Please contact Greg directly at 304-736-6688 or gregfoster1657@gmail.com if you are interested.

For Sale!

Division 6 MCR, NMRA, Inc. is offering a limited run, laser cut model of the B & O RR, station located in Grove City, OH for sale. The model is has a footprint of approximately 50' x 20' and is available in N, HO, S and O scales.

Prices for the models as follows: N Scale \$25.00 HO Scale \$35.00 S Scale \$59.00 O Scale \$69.00

Models can be purchased at any Division 6 meeting or by mail. Send your order with check or money order, payable to: Division 6, MCR, NMRA Inc. to Division 6 Building Sales, 320 S Main St, Prospect, OH. 43342. Include \$5.00 shipping charge per kit.

GROVE CITY, OHIO MIDLAND STATION

This building is currently located next to the Genesee & Wyoming RR track between Park and Grant streets on Front Street in downtown



Grove City, Ohio. The building is owned by the Grove City Historical Society who plan to eventually relocate it to Century Park where it can be preserved and enjoyed by future generations.

When the Cincinnati, Midland City and Columbus RR built the station in about 1885 only the South end of the station housing the station agent and waiting room was completed. The freight room was added at a later date.

In 1891 daily passenger service was added between the then village of Grove City and Union Station in downtown Columbus to provide commuter service to the factory workers in the area surrounding the Union Station. Passenger service was discontinued in the 1950's. In 1891 the Baltimore and Ohio RR assumed operation of the Midland Route.



NMRA's Mid Central Region is proud to announce the release of a one room brick schoolhouse kit made by Mountaineer Precision Products. The prototype was in Canal Winchester, Ohio but seems typical of 19th century schools throughout the rural Midwest. Some of these structures are still in use today for farm equipment storage (the directions say that the Canal Winchester school has been moved and preserved). The kit features laser cut wood construction with plastic brick overlay. The HO scale kit was initially available for sale at the Regional Convention and now O and S scale versions are available. The kit prices are: HO \$40, S \$65, and O \$75. There is a \$5 per kit shipping fee. Make payment to NMRA Mid-Central Region. Orders should be sent to:

MCR Project Kit
3238 Belvoir Blvd.
Beachwood, OH 44122

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.



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
Barboursville, WV



PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN

Bob Weinheimer, President
398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314
www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com



Midland Atlantic

Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com



NORFOLK AND WESTERN

PIPESTEM BASEMENT DIVISION (HO)
DAN MULHEARN
304-466-9188
danmulhearn@gmail.com



THE CRUSTY ROAD

CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



Ed Keith, MMR
Assistant Superintendent
Chesapeake, OH



THREE ARROWS RAILROAD

Tony Puccini, President
6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705
puccinibaj@hotmail.com



SHAMOKIN DIVISION

DENNIS MCGEENEY ROAD FOREMAN
SUMMERSVILLE, WV
304-872-7262



HINTON DIVISION

Gary Burdette - Superintendent
Point Pleasant WV



WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY THOMAS SUBDIVISION

RUSSEL MILLER - SUPERINTENDENT
RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



NEW RIVER GORGE SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendent
Ronceverte WV

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



John Harris, Chief Engineer
AandNRR@aol.com



With Connections to the B&O, C&O, Western Maryland, West Virginia Northern

Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR
398 MOUNT VIEW DR
CHARLESTON WV
25314-1041

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letter via the US Postal
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know so we can save
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tribution list for Up The
Holler.

Upcoming Coal Division Events

August 8

St. Albans Depot

Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue

St. Albans, WV

September 19

Elkins, WV

October 10

Portsmouth, OH

November 14

Bluefield, WV