



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

November 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
Vacant

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
Vacant

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
Bob Weinheimer MMR
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Bob Weinheimer MMR
webmaster@coaldivision.org

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

“The best-laid plans of mice and men sometimes go astray.” The second Saturday of the month or the second weekend was the question that precipitated the statement of the old saying. As the groups were scheduling the Bluefield Train Show and the Coal Division monthly event and meeting, all our thoughts were on the second weekend of the month, but due to being human, we weren’t on the same page as to the definition of second weekend. I apologize for not keeping us all together, but things will work out. Hopefully, you have all seen the notification that we will visit the train show on theseventh as an outing, and schedule the meeting at the St. Albans depot on the fourteenth. We will have our clinic, raffle, and contest at the depot and just enjoy the train show, as usual, without the meeting phase of the weekend. I hope this doesn’t cause too much confusion and difficulty.

We do get things right on most occasions, though. The recent success was the joint meeting with the Buckeye Division at Portsmouth, Ohio. Of particular note was the new Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, and Railroad Engineering contest category. This was the brain-child of Dennis McGeeney, who was inspired by the various track cleaning cars, removable access section, and automatic doors on Mark Maynard’s layout. Most of these things required a lot of “engineering” (read: skilled construction) but don’t fit into the typical contest format. So, as we discussed all the “odd-ball” possibilities, the name and theme was developed. There was a drawer slide drop-section bridge, several animations, and other entries. As the items set on display, much conversation was generated. When the items were described during the “bring-n-brag” portion of the contest, even more questions and comments evolved. There were a couple of one-on-one sessions where the builder helped a fellow modeler address his particular railroad. While we’ll continue the “regular” divisions, this new one will be seen again.

Since we will need a clinic for our November get-together, I am proposing that Bob Weinheimer present his discussion on the achievement Program. It has been quite a while since we have seen the level of activity witnessed a couple of years back. I once took copious notes on most of you as to what I was aware each of you were working on. Thus, our mix-up on dates may turn lemons into lemonade through offering an opportunity for us to revisit and revitalize us on stepping up the level of our modeling. (Plus, we won’t have to impose on Bob Osburn, our clinic chair, to have something a month early.) So, plan on helping me add to the list, and, maybe, finalize plans to complete some projects. Bring some contest items for a “structures” general category, and bring some in-progress projects, plans, photos, or completed items to boost the discussion and viewing of models in conjunction with Bob’s presentation. I’ll have some paperwork on display showing the requirements for each category as well as some completed examples that were submitted to the AP Chair.

Jerry Doyle suggested we turn this special meeting into an event as the new nomenclature is being initiated. Along with the change in the atmosphere of our gathering, we will add to the activities. I sent out a flyer to some of my stalwarts to spread the word, and this schedule has been posted as a link on the coaldivision.org web site. Expansion of our day will include a special C&O slide show by Jerry who is the author of *Chessee System Diesel Locomotives* and *Chesapeake and Ohio Diesel Locomotives in Color*. His show will begin at 11:00 with lunch on-your-own following (We may want to

Continues next page

Head of the Holler continued from page 1

order pizzas!?). In keeping with NMRA modeling month, everyone is invited to attend and bring models. We will have refreshments and some time for socialization, model viewing, and photo ops. For a highly anticipated good time come to the 5M (Mainlines, Mine Runs, Models, Museums, and More) Event on November 14, 2015 at the St. Albans Depot. Stop by.

The New River Train has come and gone and several SACOMM and/or Coal Division Members helped man

the station over the two week-ends. Thanks go to Jerry Doyle, Matt Crouch, Bill Bartley (CPHHS), Scott Cyrus, Bob Mershimer, Russ, Tammy, and Frank Miller. The special part of this event, along with enjoying the depot and a really cool train, was the people I met. One, of note, was a WWII and Korean War veteran. Wow, what a pleasure this was. Another gentleman began his love of trains when he rode a passenger train to the coast as a youth. Several of the National Park Service Rangers had interesting stories to tell.



NOVEMBER: 5M Event

Mainlines, Mine Runs, Models. Museums, & More!

A Day of Models and Rail Activities

11:00 - Jerry Doyle - Slides on the C&O Railway
(Author-*Chessie System Diesel Locomotives* and *C&O Diesel Locomotives in Color*)

12:00 - Lunch on your own

1:00 - Social hour, see museum/models, photo ops

2:00 - Trainman's Briefing (short business meeting)

3:00 - Bob Weinheimer - AP Modeling
(NMRA Master Model Railroader)

4:00 - Q/A, view models by local builders

St. Albans Depot - Saturday - November 14, 2015
Refreshments will be provided!

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.

December	November 30
January	December 14
February	February 1
March	February 29
April	March 28

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Dan Mulhearn, Assistant Superintendent

I want to know, what happened to June? This summer has flown by and I can't believe we are here in November. November is Model Railroad Month and a time for us to promote our hobby. To start, I apologize to our members for the mess up in having our monthly meeting at the Bluefield Train Show. The show has always been the second weekend in November and I don't know how it got switched to the first weekend. At any rate, we at the Pocahontas Chapter hope you will be able to attend our

show and also be at our Division meeting at the St. Albans depot on Nov. 14th. I know I have my Christmas list ready and am looking forward to shopping at the train show.

As the leaves fall, we bid goodbye to 2015 and look forward to enjoying our hobby, and our fellowship, in the coming year. Please let us know what we can do to enhance your participation in model railroading in the coming year

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

It looks like I have a bit of space to fill this month.

Just as this issue was about to go to press we received word that the Kanawha United Model Railroaders Association (a 100% NMRA club!) will be holding their annual show March 11-13, 2016 at the Dunbar, WV Parks and Recreation Community Center. This happens to be the same weekend as our March event but there should be plenty of time for all of us to drop in and support our fellow NMRA members.

The Pennsylvania Southern has had a huge change in its operations. Gone are the switchlists that operators either loved or hated, or found easy to use or confusing. They have been replaced with single use waybills. The traditional car card and waybill system involves a card for the car with a pocket into which the waybill is inserted. This waybill often has multiple destinations to be used sequentially by turning the card over. Just when to turn the card is something specified by each layout owner and could easily be a source of confusion. Also, for a twenty car train, this can be a stack of paper that can be somewhat cumbersome to handle.

While on the way to the MCR Board of Directors meeting in September I was listening to a podcast that included a discussion of waybills. That inspired me to look at my operation again. My home brew car routing program knows where a car originates and to where it is destined. It also knows, of course, the car number, what kind of car it is, and whether it is loaded or empty. The end result is a waybill that is the size and weight of a business card. It has the car information, its origin, its destination, and which yard(s) will handle it en route. These are used once then tossed into the recycle bin. That is recycling as in making new paper, not reuse as a waybill.

The first use of this was at my October operating session. A trip through the train sequence takes several evenings and this was right near the end of the sequence. All went well and it was very clear that the yard ran more smoothly. No longer was it necessary to look at a list of several hundred cars to find where one car was going.

The real test was when some friends from Louisville came over for a marathon session. I had to restage the layout before their arrival, that included making a new set of cards. Fortunately, Jerry Doyle had already suggested that each session use a color different from the previous session. Replacing old waybills with new was easy as I had printed them after sorting them by car origin which had been the previous session's destination. As a result it was very easy to link the cards with the cars.

The visiting yardmaster, who had run the yard several times, was at first a bit dubious. As the first day went on he realized just how much easier things were. The guys running other trains found the same thing. It looks like this will become a permanent change to the layout's operation.

For some time I had wanted to get away from the switchlists but I did not want to go all the way to car cards and waybills. I find the randomness used in the program I have used over the years was very useful. Waybills with car cards must be swapped out from time to time or else they get into a predictable routing. While that makes sense for specialized cars, it does not make sense for common boxcars. My program avoids that by randomly generating the cars' next destination.

The same algorithm used to generate the car destinations as displayed on the switchlists is used to generate the waybills. The output is a spreadsheet that is then linked via a word processor to a mail merge function. It's the same process used to address envelopes. The end result is a sheet with waybills printed four wide and three deep. They are then separated using a paper cutter. The final product is about 950 waybills (one per car) printed on about 80 sheets of 65 pound card stock. The cost per waybill is about one half of one cent.

The computer and paper work was only part of the change. I had to build boxes in which to place the waybills near the yards and various industries. That part of the story, however, must wait as this page is just about full.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

West Virginia Railroad Museum, Elkins, WV

October 10, 2015

Minutes

As both the Superintendent and the Asst. Superintendent were absent, the meeting was presided by the Division Clerk, Jerry Doyle. The meeting was called to order at 1:48 PM. This was joint meeting with Division 6, but the following only pertains to the Div. 9 portion.

It was moved and seconded to approve the September Minutes, and they were so approved by the vote of the attendees.

The Treasurer reported that the Division balance is \$9,064.74.

Superintendent Report – No report

Asst. Supt. Report – No report

Achievement Program – No report

Newsletter Chair – No report

Clinic Chair – There will be no clinic in November, as our meeting will be in Bluefield. For December there will be weathering with pastels, and for January the clinic will be on signals.

Membership Chair – No report

Raffle Chair – No report

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Announcements – There will be a train show in Dayton, OH on Nov. 7 and 8. Also, there is a train show in Huntington, WV on Thanksgiving weekend.

Next Meetings -

Nov. - Bluefield

Dec. - St. Albans Depot

Jan. - St. Albans Depot

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24pm.

Clinic – Running the Crusty Road

Respectfully submitted by Bill Wadsworth, Acting Clerk

ELECTION TIME

Bill Wadsworth, Nominating Committee Manager

This may seem early to some, but we need to be thinking about who our officers are for the next term. According to our Constitution we need at least one candidate each for Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent in the election. The candidates are to be reported at the January meeting at which time nominations can be made

from the floor. The ballots are then prepared and mailed out to the members, and must be returned by the March meeting. (For 2016 this is March 12.)

If you know of someone who is willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact me – preferably by or at the January meeting.

RAFFLE

The raffle returns at the November event! Bring those things you don't need but which others might want.

No, you don't get a tax write off yet but the raffle always provides lots of fun.

CONTEST

Photos by Paul Lapointe

The October contest resulted in a tie for first place. Paul Lapointe and Bob Osburn both impressed the crowd. Bob also took third place. There was no second with the tie for first. Bob took third place but we are not quite sure which of the models below was the third place winner.

Paul's entry included the sounds of an electric arc furnace. Those sounds can be heard by clicking this link: [Electric Arc Furnace model](#). Paul made the recording for

the Wheeling Steel Meet.

Bob's entry was an animated crossing gate complete with a ringing bell.

Paul took the photos of all of the animated models. The entries with photos and text descriptions just couldn't compete with the real thing live on the table.

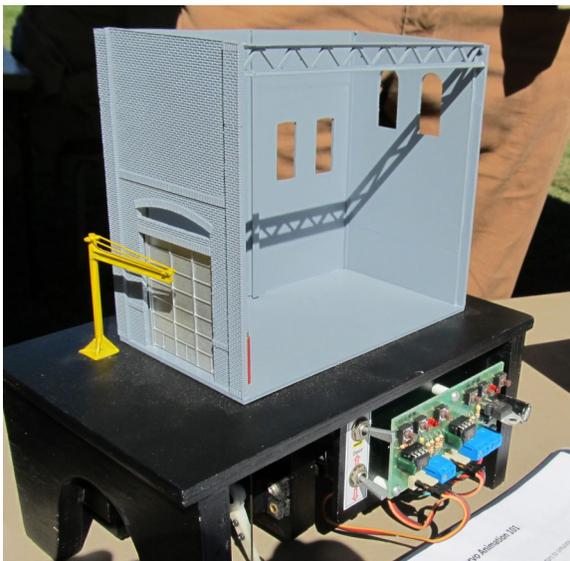
The November contest will be structures. Basically, if it doesn't move on rails it is a structure.



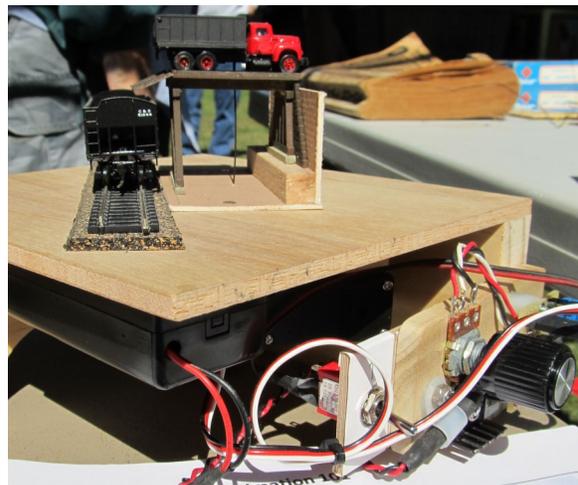
Paul's electric arc furnace complete with sound effects.



Bob's crossing gate complete with ringing bell sound.



Bob also built this display includes a garage type door that is lifted and lowered.

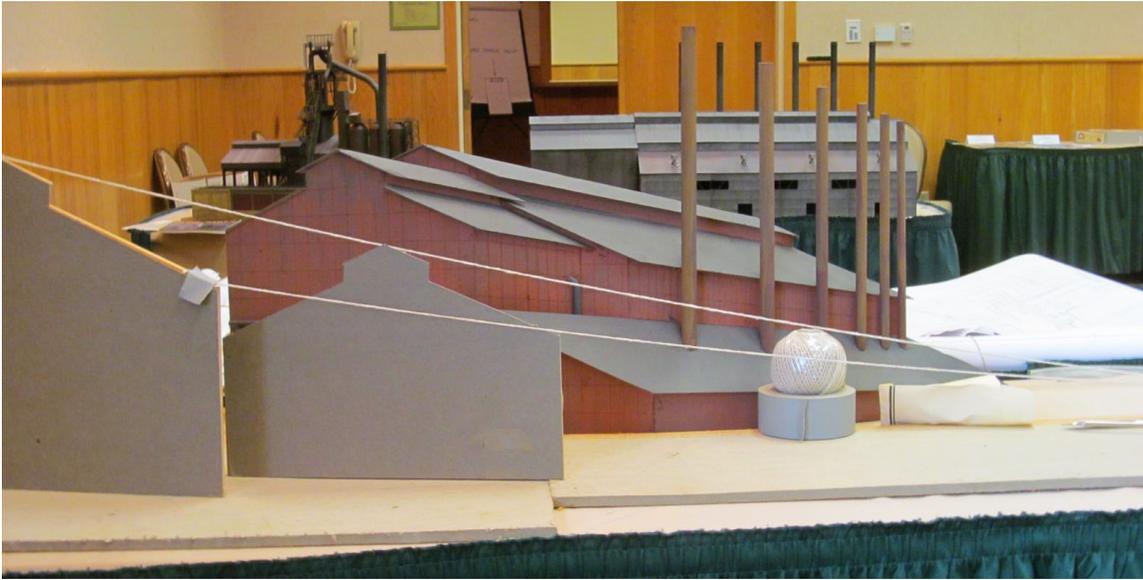


This is Bob's animated truck dump. This one was at another Coal Division event when Bob presented a clinic on animation techniques.

STEEL MODELERS MEET Paul Lapointe and Dave Stout Photos by Dave Stout

The Coal Division was represented at the NMRA Steel Mill Modelers Special Interest Group meet in Wheeling, WV Labor Day weekend. Our own Paul Lapointe was the host and Dave's and Paul's layouts were on the tour. Paul gave one of the clinics and NMRA members

from New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Virginia, Vermont, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Georgia, California and Canada stopped by to see our layouts. The Coal Division is alive and well and we have lots of things going on!



Mike Rabbitt, a professional draftsman with past commercial theatre experience, demonstrated how he uses forced perspective on his layout's building flats to greatly expand the illusion of a large steel mill.



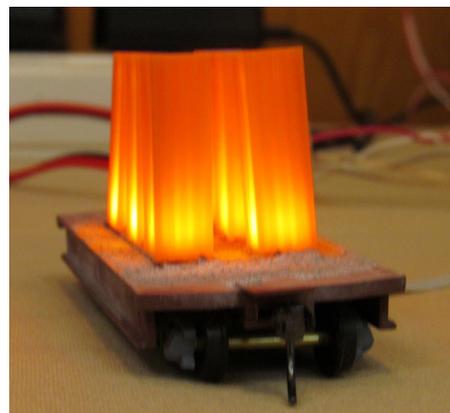
Philip Burnside's model of a blower house interior. A blower house provides the large volume of high-pressure air that drives the blast furnace (think of how a bellows intensifies a blacksmith's forge). What is unique about this model is that Philip created all the parts in a 3-D printer and motorized it (all the parts move)!



Tom Stewart displayed many of his custom build in-house specialty rail cars that are found around steel mills, as well as vehicles, steel loads, and motive power paint schemes he has modeled.



A detailed N scale model of a two-vessel arc furnace building displayed by a Canadian modeler



Paul Lapointe's lighted ingots car powered from the track. Paul will talk about how he did this as well as other electronic projects as part of his clinic at next February's Division meeting.

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For October, 2015

Tom Draper

A message from VP of Administration Clark Kooning

Well as fall comes upon us in the Northern Hemisphere, most of us turn to our hobby indoors. Some model, all year round, because the climates where we live. However for the majority of us we are dusting off the layout and dreaming of the new modeling season ahead. As the new VP (Admin) of the NMRA I have the same thoughts you do, maybe I should build a new layout and where did I last leave my throttle? I also think how we at the NMRA can promote the hobby and encourage other modelers to participate with us in a very rewarding hobby and the fellowship that provides. If you're a member and know another modeler who is not a member, next time your local Division or Region has an event why don't you take him or her along. This simple introduction to the NMRA can be the start of great lifelong friendships and, of course, our love for the hobby. I know the value in our organization starts with the sole member and those in local divisions and in the fact it is the fellowship and fun that we share at all levels that make us strong. As I begin to take on my role as the VP (Admin) There are several challenges ahead of us which the NMRA will need to move forward. With good solid leadership from both your executive team and one of the most dynamic group of Board of Directors, I can think of. I will be working with the Headquarters' staff as needed. I have been asked by President Getz to work on some projects along with Gerry Leone our other VP. I hope to have some interesting new initiatives you will like in the very near future.

A big "Thank You" to all the members who directly put on NMRA Portland National Convention and those who volunteered their time and effort during the convention to make this year's convention a lot of fun.

If you have any questions, I happy to hear from any member

Umm has anyone seen my throttle?
Clark Kooning, MMR HLM
NMRA VP (Admin)

In memoriam – G. William Hammer 1922 - 2015 From Mike Brestel – At Large Worldwide Director

I just learned that Bill Hammer died on Sept. 17 in Lexington, Ky. I found his obituary online and have pasted it below. Many of you knew Bill as a major volunteer for the NMRA for a long, long time, serving in a myriad of positions of the years, most notably as VP and for over 25 years as Legal Counsel. He received an HLM, MMR,

DSA, and two PAs over his many years of service to the NMRA.

He moved from Virginia to Lexington, Ky. around ten or twelve years ago, and as a fellow MCR member I was able to connect with him several times before his health deteriorated. I had not seen or talked to him over the past five years or so.

The funeral was on September 24 in Lexington, but unfortunately I just heard about his death today. Given Lexington's proximity to Cincinnati, I would probably have been able to represent the NMRA at the visitation and funeral had I known in time. At this point I don't know whether anyone from the NMRA was able to attend.

Mike

G. William Hammer
1922 - 2015 Obituary

HAMMER G. William, 92, of Lexington, KY (formerly of Centreville, VA) and husband of Imogene Murray Hammer, died Sept. 17, 2015.

He was born Dec. 5. 1922 in Wyandotte, MI to the late Reverends Ernest A. and Jane S. Higley. When he was three weeks old his family moved south to West Virginia and Ohio. He became a Great Lakes sailor and earned his Able Bodied Seaman's certificate in Sept. 1942. He was drafted into the army March 1, 1943. His basic training was a combat engineer and transferred into the Army Corp in the Aviation Cadet program. In early 1944 the Air Corp terminated the program for all of those who transferred from other branches in the army. At that time he volunteered for the paratroops and received his wings in July 1944. He was sent overseas and served in the Philippine Islands and received an honorable discharge with the rank of Sergeant March 10, 1946.

He graduated from Edgewood High School in Ashtabula, Ohio in 1944. In the fall of 1947 he enrolled at Ball State University, Muncie, IN, on a pre-law curriculum. He graduated with BA honors in March 1950. While at Ball State he was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity and Sigma Zeta National Science Honorary. He was Ball State's nominee for a Rhoades Scholarship in 1950. In the fall of 1950 he entered George Washington Law School, Washington, D.C. and graduated with a JD degree with honors in May 1953. He served on the Student Board of Editors of the George Washington University Law Review and a member of Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity.

He was admitted to the bar of District of Columbia in Sept. 1953 and was admitted to the bar of the state of Virginia in Feb. 1954. At that time he opened a law office in private practice in the City of Falls Church, VA. He served as prosecuting attorney for the City of Falls Church

on a part-time basis from 1959 to 1961. He was appointed to a part-time judgeship in Falls Church in Jan. 1969 and to a like position in Fairfax County on July 1, 1974. He was elected to a full-time judgeship to the 10th District Court in Virginia on July 1, 1976. He continued to serve in that capacity until he retired on July 1, 1985. While on the bench he authored an article on Preliminary Hearings in Virginia which was published in 1980. From 1981 to 1985 he served on the Committee on District Courts who set policy for the entire District Court system for the state.

He was an avid model railroader and was a life member of the National Model Railroad Association. He served on several groups including as Legal Counsel from 1963 to 1976 and again from 1985 until 1998, the regional trustee for the Mid-East region on the National Board of Trustees, Eastern Vice President of the association from 1969 to 1971 and later as the Executive Vice President of the association. He was awarded the three highest awards from the association, the President's Award, Distinguished Service Award and the Honorary Life Member, the highest award and designated as a Master Model Railroader.

Other interests included being a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans for over 50 years, Commander of the Robert E. Lee camp of the SCV in Alexandria, VA, Military Order of the Stars and Bars as commander of the Samuel Cooper chapter in Alexandria, VA. He is survived by a daughter Jane Hammer of Lexington, KY from a previous marriage. Gene's son Craig Smith (Hellie) from Paris, IL and daughter Suzanne Adair (Ken) of Lexington, KY and numerous nephews and nieces of Ashtabula County, OH.

Funeral service will be 12pm Wednesday at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home-Main St. Burial will be in Lexington Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11am-12pm Wednesday. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the G. William Memorial Scholarship Fund, Ball State University Foundation, PO Box 672, Muncie, IN 47308, account number 30095.

Published in Lexington Herald-Leader on Sept. 20, 2015

In memoriam – Andy Sperandeo
Kevin P. Keefe

WAUKESHA, Wis. – Longtime Model Railroader editor Andy Sperandeo died Oct. 3, in Brookfield, after a long illness. He was 70.

Sperandeo joined the Model Railroader staff in 1979. Over the years he worked his up through the ranks, becoming editor in 1993 and, later, executive editor. Most recently he was editor of Model Railroader's annual Great Model Railroads issue. He was also a prolific author for Kalmbach Books.

Sperandeo's expertise extended to all facets of the model-railroad hobby, but he was especially known for his command of realistic train operations, as reflected in his popular column in the magazine, "The Operators."

"Andy was an excellent model builder, a diligent researcher, and a meticulous editor," says Model Railroader Editor Neil Besougloff. "We will remember all of that, but mostly we remember that Andy was our close friend."

A renowned expert on the Santa Fe, Sperandeo was active in the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society, as well as the National Model Railroad Association. His home layout is a faithful interpretation of the Santa Fe's main line through California's Cajon Pass in the late 1940s.

Sperandeo was a native of New Orleans. He earned his B.A. in English from Loyola of the South, an M.A. from Louisiana State University, and was working on his Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas when Model Railroader lured him to Milwaukee in 1979.

A burial ceremony is planned for Saturday, with funeral details pending.

From Trains Magazine

Regards,

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

**KANAWHA UNITED MODEL RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION
 MODEL TRAIN SHOW
 MARCH 11, 12, 13 2016
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 COMMUNITY CENTER
 2501 FAIRLAWN AVENUE**

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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 \$45, S \$70, and O \$80 including shipping. Make payment to NMRA Mid-Central Region. Orders should be sent to:

MCR Project Kit
 3238 Belvoir Blvd.
 Beachwood, OH 44122

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danmulhearn@gmail.com



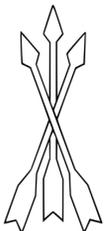
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Chesapeake, OH



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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Upcoming Coal Division Events

November 14

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

December 12

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

January 9

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