



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9 THE COAL DIVISION

MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

December 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

Well, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. As this is being written, we are in the thick of the holiday season. Hopefully, everyone will have a wonderful time with train shows, food, friends, and family during this time. I am going to jump ahead to our December gathering then mention some things we need to look at which are part of the holidays.

Our theme for December 12th is "Santa at the Station: A Coal Division Christmas." I know we'll have some hot chocolate, coffee, water, soft drinks, and brownies. I think Santa will be there (cardboard cutout) with a bag full of goodies. There will be some Coal Division presents for all the good little boys. A display on making snow scenes will be set up as a mini-clinic or M.A.D.D. There will be the regular clinic, raffle, and contest (modeler's choice). So, come on down to the depot and enjoy the tree, friendship, and railroading.

Looking back at the train show at Bluefield, I'd like to thank John Harris for setting up our NMRA backdrop and manning the booth with me. We talked to a lot of people and had a great time. The show was enjoyable, as usual, and a couple of our members (who shall remain nameless) came away with large sacks of train items to the delight of the vendors.

Jumping back to our Elkins meeting via the December *NMRA Magazine* has been a nice surprise for many of the membership. For those who have not seen it, the Division Business Car column mentions the tours we had at the September event and directions are given to see the photos of a virtual tour on the NMRA web site. Furthermore, Dan Mulhearn's thoughts on sound systems are printed on page 37 of the national publication. Congratulations to the Coal Division and to Dan for this positive notoriety.

As I finish up, the Appalachian Model Railroad Society's 58th Annual Train Show at Huntington, West Virginia is winding down. Again, many contacts have been made. A couple of friends outside the division and some local individuals, some of whom are late teen and early twenties, are interested in model railroading. Invitations have been extended. We'll see if some potential "new blood" drops by.

One important note concerns my debut as a television personality. I gave a lengthy interview to the WSAZ news person on Saturday. I mentioned everything I could think of about the NMRA, model railroading, our division, and who knows what else. Luckily, the editor only broadcast my comments that "everyone loves trains," thus, I didn't embarrass myself. So much for my new career.

I mentioned that our clinic chair will be preparing for and looking for clinic ideas to use in future presentations. Some may be preceded by the NMRA DVDs we recently received. He hopes many can be hands-on. I am collecting some tree weeds, dirt, small rocks, and some other stuff for a small "fill-a-foot" foam board sheet.

See you at the depot for a small part of a wonderful holiday season.

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

I want to know who ran off with summer. The yard work is not done yet and people are wishing me Happy Thanksgiving. As the year rapidly wanes there are some good memories and some disappointments. The biggest disappointment was having to cancel our trip to the NMRA National at Portland. Another disappointment was the inability to make the trip to our annual Portsmouth OH meeting. But the good stuff rolled on with meetings at the depot, Marion, and Elkins, along with the great fellowship. One of the things that are most enjoyable to me are the op sessions I have been able to attend.

There is Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern, Clint Foster's C&O New River Sub, Tom Harris' Lakeside Lines, Bob Burke's Sandy Creek and Southern, Dennis McGeeney's Reading Lines, and Walt Mycoff's M&M. Also I may get to the G&G and The Crusty Lines a few times in the coming year. All are fun to operate on, with a cast and crew of good modelers and friends. I would like to close by wishing everyone a blessed and happy Thanksgiving. Please remember our servicemen and women as well as those who's job keeps them away from home for the Holidays. See you at the depot soon.



Santa at the Station **A Coal Division Christmas**

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

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

3:00 - December Clinic by Bob Osburn will be on Modeling Tools, Tips, and Techniques. A special portion of the clinic will be time for members to share their modeling tools, tips, and techniques. If you participate in this portion of the clinic you will have the opportunity to win one of several very nice door prizes.

Contest: Modeler's Choice

Raffle: Includes another wonderful drawing by Mike Penn. Proceeds go to the Depot.

St. Albans Depot
Saturday - December 12, 2015
Refreshments will be provided!

UPCOMING CLINICS **Bob Osburn, Clinic Chair**

The scheduled Clinic for December has been changed. Dale Osburn's daughter is graduating from Marshall University the same day as our meeting and his clinic on Weathering Techniques will have to be rescheduled for another date. See the item above for the December clinic description.

Schedule upcoming Clinics include:
January—Railroad Signals by Jerry Doyle
February—Electronic Steel Mill Projects

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

5M Event – Mainlines, Mine Runs, Models, Museum, and More . . .

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
November 14, 2015

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

Treasury balance is currently \$9,021.17
October minutes were approved.
Pike Ads \$0.
Raffle revenues \$28.

Superintendent Report

Gary thanked everyone for attending and thanked Jerry Doyle for his morning presentation on WV railroad history. Gary discussed a recent article in Scale Rails and public engagement which is a goal of our membership as well. Bob Osburn has some ideas on making future meetings more interesting. We had a good response to our display in Bluefield.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Dan thanked Jim Porterfield for welcoming the Division for the September meeting and Gary Burdette and John Harris for representing us in Bluefield.

Achievement Program

No new activity to report but Bob mentioned one of the clinics this month will deal with the AP program.

Newsletter Chair

The current issue was 12 pages which is about the limit for mailing costs. Bob also mentioned that the MCR Kingpin is available electronically, if you aren't receiving it this means NMRA national does not have your email address. John Harris mentioned a request from someone at the Bluefield show about the possibility of mailing issues to NMRA members outside the division and the potential cost.

Clinic Chair

Our December clinic will be by Dale Osburn on weathering. Bob Osburn mentioned having other members also bring an example of their weathering for discussion. January clinic Jerry Doyle – Railroad Signals, February Bob Weinheimer – Layout Operations.

Contest Chair

This month's contest – structures
Next month's contest will be modeler's choice.

Membership Chair

Membership holding steady about 60 members. Three members will be expiring soon. Gary Burdette will be taking the display to the Huntington Model Railroad Show at Thanksgiving.

Elections

Nominations are due by January. Voting deadline is the March meeting. Voting must be done by USPS.

Raffle

\$48.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

Huntington Model Railroad Show Thanksgiving weekend November 27-29.
Paramount Art Center Ashland, Ky. November 20-22.
Railroad Heritage Conference Davis & Elkins College November 16.

Future Meetings

December – St. Albans Depot: *Santa at the Station: A Coal Division Christmas*
January – St. Albans Depot: *A New Year's New Look at Model Railroad*
February – St. Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Dan Mulhearn, photo by Gary Burdette

There were only two buildings submitted for the November contest. Both were outstanding models. Gary Burdette won for his model of the streamlined coaling tower which C&O had built for the stillborn "Chessie" train. It should be noted that by looking up river from the WV20 bridge you can still see the footprint of the structure along the river bank. Bob Weinheimer brought in his model of Doyle Hardware, a long background building. It looks like it is only a couple of inches deep; but peek in the cargo door and see a huge warehouse providing plenty of business for the Pennsylvania Southern.

Our December contest will be modeler's choice. Please consider bringing an entry. Last but not least, the chairmanship of the contest committee is available.



RAFFLE

Dan Mulhearn

The November raffle, held at the St. Alban's depot made us \$48 towards the upkeep and maintenance of the building. One popular item raffled off was a copy of a really nice pencil drawing by Mike Penn of a steam locomotive. We are in need of additional items for the raffle; keep in mind that one man's junk is another man's treasure. If it does not fit your era, or you are sick of looking at it, bring it to the raffle! In addition to model equipment, railroadiana and paper goods such as old timetables, etc. are welcome. The chairmanship of this committee is available should anyone wish to become involved.

Another of Mike's drawings will be in the December raffle. Editor's note: the photo to the right does not do the drawing justice, you need to see it in person.



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.

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

NAME TAGS

John Harris, Membership Chair

Anyone needing a division name tag should contact me at or before the December meeting. An order is being

sent in following the meeting cost to be \$12.00 each. After this order they will be \$15.00

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.

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

Tom Draper

November is Model Railroading Month

2015 NMRA Awards and Honors

Pioneer Award

Avery "Swede" Norlen
Eberhard Richter
Wolfgang Richter
Bill Wischer

Honorary Life Member

Al Boos
Ken West

Distinguished Service Award

Keith Wills

Fellow of the NMRA

Gerry Hopkins

2016 NMRA Elections Candidates

The 2016 NMRA Election Slate of Candidates is as follows:

Atlantic District Director

Peter Brown
Kathy Millatt

At Large Worldwide Director

Mike Brestel
Bob Ferguson

Western District Director

Steve Barkley
Don Fowler
Stephen Priest

From John Stevens, NMRA Secretary

SMILE!

Bob Weinheimer MMR

Smile? What does that have to do with model railroading? You may be surprised! Are you one of the countless people who shop online at amazon.com? If so, the next time you do type in smile.amazon.com instead. Your shopping experience will be the same as always after an initial session. You will be prompted to select a charity from a drop down menu. Did you know that one of those is the NMRA? What does the NMRA get out of this? The NMRA receives 0.5%, yes, one half of one percent, of your Amazon purchase. If, for example, you spend

\$100, the NMRA gets 50 cents.

That may not sound like much but if you multiply that by 19,000 members it starts to add up. Also, many shoppers spend much more than \$100 over the course of a year. Once you go to smile.amazon.com, if you forget and leave off the smile part, it will ask you if you want to go to smile.amazon.com. The experience is, as noted earlier, identical to the usual Amazon

If you are an Amazon customer, check out smile.amazon.com and benefit the NMRA,

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

At the recent train show in Huntington, our fearless leader Gary Burdette MMR was interviewed by WSAZ TV. An edited version of the interview made it to the news that Saturday evening. To the right is a screen shot grabbed from a DVR replay. Gary is a tad out of focus as this was taken as the playback was happening. I froze the frame but there was a banner covering his name. While that was sharper, this is more informative. As you can tell from his comments, he was pleased to be interviewed. When I called him Sunday evening Janie said he was out front signing autographs.

Progress on the Pennsylvania Southern continues. I tore up tracks at Washington from the south switch to the crossover at the middle of the siding. I started to put it back together and realized I was out of rail joiners, a serious flaw in planning. As I write this on Monday morning December 30, I am planning a quick trip to the hobby shop to remedy that oversight.

Wearing my other editorial hat, I have been working on the convention issue of the Kingpin. If all goes well



the electronic version will be out shortly after this issue of Up The Holler. Our regulations require a paper copy be sent as well. Due to the time required for printing then the Christmas mail rush I am not sure just when you will see it, let's hope it is before the end of December.

I'll close by wishing all who read this a joyous holiday season including a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.


KANAWHA UNITED MODEL RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION MODEL TRAIN SHOW MARCH 11, 12, 13 2016 DUNBAR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER 2501 FAIRLAWN AVENUE



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

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



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

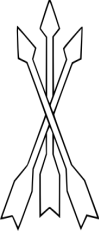


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Mark Maynard, President
Portsmouth, OH



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



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RUSSEL22@MSN.COM



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SUBDIVISION**
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Allegheny & New River Road
An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America
a few tons at a time



John Harris, Chief Engineer
AandNRR@aol.com

Western West Virginian



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

Upcoming Coal Division Events

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address, please let us
know so we can save
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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

February 13
St. Albans Depot
Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue
St. Albans, WV