



# UP THE HOLLER

## Newsletter of Division 9

### THE COAL DIVISION

#### MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC

January 2016



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

“This has been a great meeting: no, event.” Stated by our past super, I felt that this comment on the December get-together was both a compliment to all who participated and a good description of the day. As we have been working to spruce up activities each month for real “Rail Fun Adventures,” our efforts are paying off.

Several members entered the modeler’s choice monthly contest. We had brownies and beverages on which to snack. Bob Osburn gave an interesting and informative presentation on tools from adhesives to clamps, and saws to specialty items. Several of you brought in your favorite tools for show and tell. There was a M.A.D.D. display on snow scenery. The depot was in all her Christmas finery. And, Santa was there to present gifts for all in attendance. Yes, it was a good day.

Can we continue to improve and refine what we are doing? I think so! With the enthusiasm that has been shown and new ideas in the offing, the sky is the limit. So, keep your thinking caps on and see what you can come up with. Even a brief show and tell adds spice to the mix.

Bob Osburn has obtained 30 plastic box car shells from the NMRA. These were thought to be invaluable for us to practice air brushing and lettering/decals techniques. Bob Weinheimer purchased a number of r-t-r box cars at a recent meet on which we might practice air brush weathering techniques. He has volunteered to develop a series of hands-on clinics for us. We may practice among ourselves, then open up clinics for other clubs and/or the public. This could even evolve into an outreach or fundraiser.

I noted I have been collecting foam board, saw dust, rocks, sand, weeds, pop-ice sticks and other stuff for a “fill-a-foot” or a “Coal Division 9 /Nine -Inch Scene.” This is based on a project presented by the Australian group a while back and accentuated in an article in the *Keystone Corridor* this past month. (There is a cheat sheet to help us.) I found two cut-out projects in an old issue of *1001 Model Railroad Ideas*. We could build a scene, then cut card, construction paper and what-not to construct a building to put on it. We could follow up with some weathering: pastels, chalks, air brush, and dry brush. This could develop into the Scene, Diorama, or Module Contest category envisioned by Dennis McGeeney: either compete with the “fill-a-foot” display or make your own at home.

The December *NMRA Magazine* featured an article suggesting the modeler build every structure into a little scene which could be removed from the railroad. Many of you have seen several mini-scenes by Larry Richards. Here is an opportunity for one to actually build a completed, stand-alone model, or place it on the layout as a finished element. Think about this one for there is great learning and modeling potential, and a lot of hands-on fun as well.

Our clerk suggested we have more morning sessions, as we did recently, to offer a full day of “rail fun,” since we are spending much of our day anyway. If not every month, then selected months. Slide shows, videos, Power Point Presentations, stories, how-to’s and what-not. More imagining is required here. His clinic for January will be on Railroad Signaling. I’m going to bring some diagrams, photos, and models for a M.A.D.D. display.

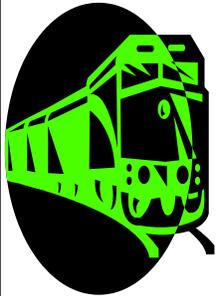
In keeping with a “New Look for the New Year,” I am establishing an artistic, multi-faceted contest called “Photos, Fine Art, and Finest Finishes.” In these areas we may enter items which present an artistic interpretation of our hobby includ-

Continued page 2

Continued from page 1 ing model and prototype photos, any craft or work of art, and models that have exceptional paint and/or weathering applied. This is advocated as a way of combining some related, artistic elements which, while we look at, are not always the key element of the viewing and contest. The ARTISTIC qualities of this new category will be competing for the popular vote. You are all artists in interpreting how you see the prototype and presenting it to the rest of us, through photos, arts/crafts, or model painting techniques. So, for January, break out

the photos, drawing, or weathered model and give this a try. Everyone should have an example of one of these.

I have learned from my “crazy modeling friend,” the late Shelby Young, and my “Steel is King” buddy, Dave Stout, that anything is fair game when building models. Whether you use the fur from Lion King slippers or plastic shapes from the work shop, anything that works is OK in modeling. The same goes for “meetings.” Maybe, even more-so with meetings: they may be transformed into EVENTS!



## New Year - New Look *January Railfun Event*

January 9, 2016 @ *your* **ST. ALBANS** depot

### TIMETABLE

#### 1:00 - **Social & M.A.D.D. Viewing Time:**

- \*C&O Signal Blueprints
- \*Articles
- \*How-to
- \*Models
- \*Rules

#### 2:00 - **Superintendent's Briefing: Info. On-**

- \*The Depot
- \*The Division
- \*The Election

#### 2:45 - **Raffle and Contest: *A New Look-***

- \*Mixed Bag - Enter contest get raffle ticket
- \*Photos, Fine Arts, and Finest Finishes
- \*Clinic: Signaling by Jerry Doyle

## UPCOMING CLINICS

### Bob Osburn, Clinic Chair

The scheduled Clinic for January will be on Railroad Signals presented by Jerry Doyle. We all enjoy Jerry's clinics, his knowledge of the subject and professional presentations are great. If you have any railroad signals or associated materials, please feel free to include them in the clinic, your participation is welcome.

track with an oscillating tool, do it on a scrap piece of track first! It has been found that some oscillating tools will not give good results. A follow-up will be discussed during the January Meeting.

Schedule upcoming clinic: February—Electronic Steel Mill Projects by Paul Lapointe

A caution from the December Clinic—if you try to cut

## CONTEST

### Photos by Paul Lapointe

December's contest was Modeler's Choice and had several entries. First Place went to Larry Richards for his HO<sub>n</sub>30 center cab locomotive. There was a tie for second between Sam Delauter's N scale PRR R50B reefer and Jerry Doyle's HO transfer caboos.

There was no third place as these were the three highest vote getters. The January contest title is "Photos, Fine Arts, and Finest Finishes". This includes items which present an artistic interpretation of our hobby including model and prototype photos, any craft or work of art, and models that have exceptional paint and/or weathering applied.



Larry's center cab locomotive



Sam's reefer



Jerry's transfer caboose

## RAFFLE

The December raffle brought in \$41. This month we have the third of three wonderful drawings by Mike Penn. This one is of a Norfolk Southern train on a trestle.

The selection of raffle items is again getting a bit thin so take another look at what you have that needs a good home. What you have no more need of may be just what somebody else has been looking for!

Remember that all raffle proceeds from events at the depot go toward the utilities. While the winter has been mild to date that cannot last and sooner or later the contribution will really be paying for heat. Bring those items and buy those raffle tickets.



## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

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

St Albans Depot  
St Albans, WV  
December 12, 2015  
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:53 p.m.

#### **Division Clerk Report**

Treasury balance is currently \$9,021.17  
November minutes were approved.  
Pike Ads \$0.  
Raffle revenues \$41.

#### **Superintendent Report**

Gary thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Members introduced themselves. He passed around a signup sheet for work on the depot the week of the 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

No report.

#### **Achievement Program**

Bob Weinheimer mentioned John Harris has been working on a certificate.

#### **Newsletter Chair**

Bob would like submissions early due to the holiday. Paul Lapointe has submitted something for the January issue.

#### **Clinic Chair**

Today's clinic was changed to modeling tools, tips, and techniques. January clinic Jerry Doyle – Railroad Signals, February Paul Lapointe – Layout Electronics Projects. We will be using surplus boxcar shells from NMRA national for a clinic in the Spring. A hands-on clinic that could be open to other clubs and modelers was proposed.

#### **Contest Chair**

This month's contest – modeler's choice.

#### **Membership Chair**

We will be ordering a new batch of name badges. Gary mentioned having a new run of shirts and hats.

#### **Elections**

We will have an election in the Spring of 2016. Nominations are due by January. Voting deadline is the March meeting. Voting must be done by USPS.

#### **Raffle**

We have a small number of items for raffle today. Our inventory is getting low. Proceeds \$41.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

None

#### **Announcements**

Be looking for news on a new NMRA discount program sometime in January.

There will be a silent auction soon at the depot. Gary showed several items that will be in the auction.

Gary mentioned positive feedback on the revised contest format at the Portsmouth, Ohio meeting.

#### **Future Meetings**

January – St. Albans Depot: *A New Year's New Look at Model Railroading*

February – St. Albans Depot: *History and Hobby-*

March – St Albans Depot: *Model Like a Lion or a Lamb?*

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

## Layout Expansion on the Pittsburgh & Western RR By Paul Lapointe

After talking about it for over a year I finally bit the bullet and started to expand my layout.

My current layout occupies approximately half my basement or about 25 by 28 feet. I decided to expand into one half of the remaining basement, about 14 by 20 feet in size. I was going to take the entire basement but I realized that I still need storage space and things like a furnace and other items.

The new area will be double deck around the walls with a peninsula in the middle. One wall will be an oval helix with scenic portions and will incorporate a 10 track staging yard. The main yard at Midway will be tripled in length and converted from a stub end yard to a double-ended yard adding additional locomotive servicing including a much-needed turntable. The track plan will also change, greatly lengthening the mainline run and correcting a couple of bottlenecks and one or two areas that never worked out as planned. A provision will be made for continuous running for open house situations. The second level, which is the mountain region I call Coal Fork Branch, will be greatly extend all the way around and include at least two more coal mines and a marshalling yard. Both levels will extend into a peninsula in the middle of the area to featuring more industries

### Construction progress:

After clearing out the area the first order of business was to put up a ceiling. This keeps dust from falling on the layout from the floor above. It goes a long way toward keeping the layout clean and operational. I rarely have to do any track cleaning. I'm lucky enough to have access to a supply of Masonite panels about 3' x 4' which I tacked up to the underside of the floor joists. I then painted the panels a ceiling white to improve the lighting by brightening up the area.

The next thing I do is to put up the stud walls. As I did in the original layout, I put up steel studs. I prefer to work with steel because it is lightweight, because I usually work alone, and it is very stable. It will not warp, cup, or twist like wood can. Steel studs are approximately the same price as good construction lumber.

Once the stud walls are up, I build benchwork out of the same steel studs. I make the benches usually two feet wide but no wider than 2 ½ feet. This is to keep everything on the layout within arm's length reach. The benches are mounted to the vertical studs in a cantilevered position from the wall. This makes a very strong bench and has the added advantage of not needing legs underneath them. The steel stud benches are assembled and mounted using self-drilling, self-tapping screws.

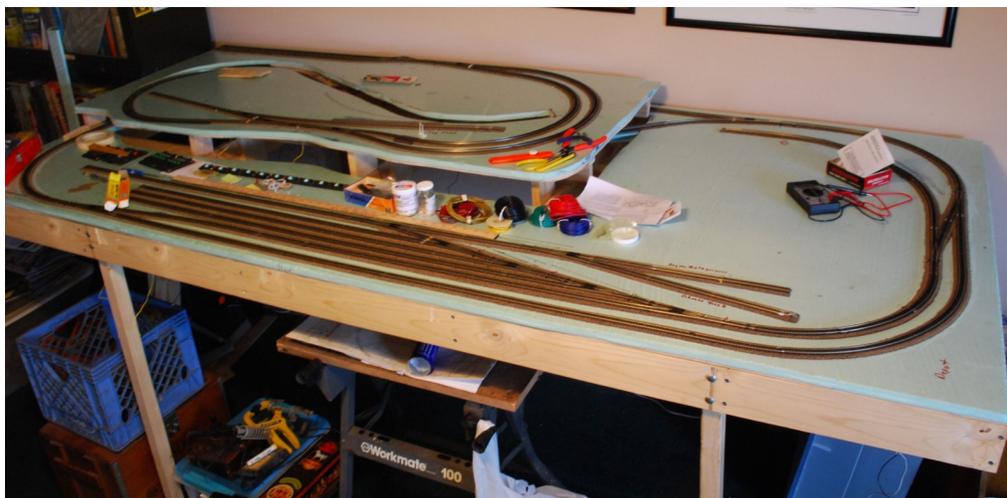
Well, that's it so far. I plan to update the progress on the layout next month.



## Herb's Model Railroad Herb Parsons

The editor asked for some photos of my layout so here they are.

The lower level has a three track yard and an industrial lead that will have a truck dump on the end. The two stub end tracks on the left will be an engine service track and a caboose track. The track on the right is for a saw mill. The large open space will be a small town.



On the upper level, on the left is a switchback to a log camp. On the right are 2 tracks for a coal mine.

I checked the incline with a Atlas GP7 and cars. I started with the engine and six cars and had no trouble going up grade. I added cars until I got to 13 cars and a caboose and the GP7 pulled the train with no effort. I stopped at 13 cars because the mine tracks will only hold that many.

I now have to wire the layout and purchase a second controller. Jerry suggested I wire it for DCC. I'll have to look into that.

### 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.

February	February 1
March	February 29
April	March 28
May	May 2
June	May 30

## 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 December, 2015

Tom Draper

### **An article from Frank Baker, Acting NMRA Marketing Director:**

I received my first train set at the very early age of two. Along with my early entry into the hobby, came a desire to know more about how this wonderful toy worked. I was hooked. While that train set no longer exists, I grew up surrounded by trains. Up until I was nine, The Erie Railroad was 4 houses up the street. My neighbor was Grif Teller, the famous artist for many PRR calendars. He also had a Buddy "L" set that I would drag out of his garage and set it up in my backyard. At nine, we moved to another town and the DL&W was my new neighbor. Trains were part of my formative years. This is a wonderful hobby and the achievement program has helped me in many ways. Friends and fellow modelers know that I have a passion for scratch building structures.

Before retirement, I was Director of Sales & Marketing for an Arizona based company, with customers around the world. I retired six years ago and really immersed myself into the hobby, just ask my wife. Since then I have been the editor of our division newsletter and publicity chair for our 2015 regional convention.

Earlier in the year I raised my hand letting Charlie Getz know of my interest in the NMRA marketing position. At our PSR regional convention in September, Charlie announced this to everyone. We all know that the hobby is changing much like everything else in the world. Today's young are more interested in that little black box

called a phone and seem to dwell on its ability to do almost everything. Our population is aging, adults are working more and the hobby is seeing declining in numbers.

Bringing back the heyday of model railroading is probably an impossible task, but developing new and exciting elements of the hobby across a broad spectrum of age related hobbyists or potential model train enthusiasts, might just work. This is going to be a challenge and will require thinking "out of the box" and the help of everyone to refine, create, and implement new solutions to attract a new generation of model railroaders and retain many of the existing members. I look forward to working with everyone in this challenging position and having your help to excite, inform and grow the NMRA.

NMRA  
Frank C. Baker  
Acting NMRA Marketing Director

*If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You will find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in the NMRA Magazine*

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

## MY WORD

### Bob Weinheimer, Editor

On previous pages I hope you have seen the progress made by Paul Lapointe on his layout. I'm sure there will be even more to see at the 2016 Steel is King event in Parkersburg.

Herb Parsons has also given us a look at his layout as well as his planning thoughts. I look forward to Herb's progress as well.

Track renovation continues on the Pennsylvania Southern. At Washington turnouts, the main line, and the passing siding have been replaced starting with the south end turnout and through and including the crossover near the yard throat. I want to give this a good workout before adding ballast. We had a bit of trouble at the December operating session but I think I have found and squashed the bug causing the trouble.

Next up will be the rest of the main line and passing siding and associated turnouts in Washington. While there is less distance involved than in the recent work, there are eight turnouts to build before I tear anything out. My plan is to cause no interference to operating sessions hence the small bits at a time. The holiday season and a couple of other layout issues have kept me from making any progress between the December and January sessions but look for more in the months to come.

Yet another project may be in the works. The conversion to LEDs for all the lighting in the large room was completed two years ago and has been well received. I am now seriously entertaining the idea of converting the fluorescent lights in the Pittsburgh room to LEDs as well. Some of the fixtures are showing their age and may soon be put out of their misery.

If you look at the last page of this newsletter, you will see that our annual Steel is King meeting is scheduled for May 14, the second Saturday in May. In recent years we have done this a week earlier to avoid any conflict with Mother's Day. A fluke of the calendar (May starts on a Sunday) moves the holiday to the day after the first Saturday. Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe were agreeable to the idea of keeping clear of that day so we will gather in Parkersburg Saturday May 14. I know I will be anxious to see Paul's progress on his layout expansion. I also look forward to new things that Dave will have.

Winter will arrive eventually and that will give all of us the opportunity to head to the layout or work bench and get back into the business of building layouts and models. Keep the Achievement Program in mind as you do all of that work.

## 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

**NOTE: Gary Burdette still has two of these kits available for sale.**

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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Barboursville, WV



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**HINTON DIVISION**

Gary Burdette - Superintendent  
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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

Western West Virginian



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

Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up The  
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## Upcoming Coal Division Events

**January 9**

**St. Albans Depot**

**Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue**

**St. Albans, WV**

**February 13**

**St. Albans Depot**

**March 12**

**St. Albans Depot**

**April 9**

**St. Albans Depot**

**May 14**

**Steel is King**

**Parkersburg, WV**