



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
 MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC
 March 2018



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

It is hard to believe we are looking at our March event, along with the prospect of nicer weather. Where does the time go? It is sometimes seems hard to believe that we meet alongside a double track Class 1 railroad and often not one train passes. As Tom Harris and I left we did notice that track 2 had a signal for a westbound move. We got off to a rough start when Ed Keith took a bad fall. Fortunately after a checkup at the hospital he was released. Ed was able to make the train show at Coonskin Park, glad it was not more serious. There was one entrant in the contest, the category was steam. Woody Mitchell displayed a beautifully rendered S scale bridge. The event ended with a wonderful clinic on carving and coloring Styrofoam to create rock wall, outcroppings, etc. This excellent presentation was made by David Oliverio.

Make sure to mark your calendars for the "Steel is King" event in Parkersburg this spring. In order to avoid conflicting with Mother's Day weekend; our event will be held on May 5. The third Saturday, May 19th, falls during our MCR Regional Convention. It is hoped everyone is looking forward to an upcoming season of enjoyment of our hobby.

March Event

Saturday March 10

St. Albans Depot

Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue

St. Albans, WV

Full schedule of events on page 3

Contest: Locomotives other than steam

Clinic: Scenery techniques

From the Office Down the Hall

Bob Osburn Assistant Superintendent

One aspect of model railroading I really enjoy is building structures. I have chosen to work with N-Scale for two particular reasons: space doesn't allow me an area to create a large model railroad empire and N-Scale allows me to add just enough detail to my structures without getting carried away. As I get older and my eyesight is dwindling, I sometimes question N-Scale as my choice. Since I have acquired a large layout with no structures on it, I recently did something I thought I would never do: purchase a few Woodland Scenics® ready-built and lighted structures. I did this for several reasons. First, it will reduce my time for having some completed structures on the layout. Second, I wanted to have a close look at the detail they put into these buildings so I can use them as a benchmark for other structures I'm working on. Third, I wanted to see how they did the interiors and lighting. The detail and finish in these buildings are remarkable; maybe somewhat too good. A little weathering and minor repainting should make them look "used and old". The interiors and lighting are also very good but the lighting requires the purchase of their Just Plug Lighting System®. Both the structures and lighting system are a little pricey but in some situations worth the cost. They definitely fill a need of some modelers.

I was really curious of the lighting system, so the first thing was to disassemble the light hub to see what makes it

work. Now remember, I know just enough just about electronics to be dangerous—there is a lot going on inside that lighting hub. After probing it with my voltmeter, I broke it down into components and with the help of the internet I was able to draw a simple schematic of what I think I needed to accomplish a cheaper alternative—mainly the ability to use a potentiometer to vary the intensity of the LED and use materials I already have. I'll let you know how it works out!

Coal Division Information: We will be setting-up the division display at the KYOVA Mall Show March 17th and 18th. John Harris is unavailable that weekend so I have agreed to assume the duties. The show hours are Saturday 10am-8pm and Sunday noon till 4:30pm, see the ad on page 8. Any help you could contribute manning the display, for even a few hours, would be appreciated.

Representatives from the Appalachian Model Railroad Society have been invited to attend our April meeting. They will give a brief overview of their activities and goals.

Sam Delauter is spearheading an effort to organize a T-TRAK Special Interest Group within Coal Division. An organizational meeting has occurred and Sam will have more information in the newsletter and at the March meeting. Sam says more about this on page 6.

Upcoming Clinics

Bob Osburn, Clinic Manager

February featured David Olivero's clinic, Carved Styrofoam Rock Formations. Although a bit messy with some clean-up required, we all had a good time and learned about an easy way to accomplish realistic rock formations. This was David's first time presenting a clinic and he did a wonderful job—thanks David!

The March clinic will be presented by Mark Maynard. The clinic will include a demonstration and discussions on scenery techniques ranging from applying ground foam to ballasting track work.

Jerry Doyle is scheduled to give the April clinic and will have more information on his clinic at the March

meeting.

There will be no clinic for May, as we will be in Parkersburg. We have a tentative clinic on using computer programs to develop track plans scheduled for June.

Remember, the Company Store will be open for the March meeting. If you have something to sell, please bring and add to the collection.

The theme for our March MADD session will be Scenery Techniques. If you have favorite tools or processes regarding how you accomplish this task, please bring your items for display and discussion.



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Scenery Techniques”

Saturday March 10, 2018

- 1:00 - Depot open
Buy raffle tickets, etc.
Socialize
Contest: Locomotives other than steam
- 2:00 - Superintendent’s Briefing
- 2:30 - MADD Discussion of scenery techniques
- 2:45 - Raffle results, contest results
- 3:00 - Clinic: Mark Maynard will demonstrate scenery techniques.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
February 10, 2018
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Dan Mulhearn at 1:50 p.m.

Members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

January Minutes approved
Treasury Balance is \$8,840.97
Pike Ads \$0
Raffle Revenue \$0
Company Store Revenue \$0

Superintendent Report

Dan Mulhearn mentioned he was still recovering from recent eye surgery. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting today.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn recently visited the AMRS club in Ashland, Kentucky. He provided details on their upcoming show in March. Some tables are still available for the show and they have invited us to set up our display.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer was attending the NMRA BOD meeting.

Achievement Program

See above.

Membership

No Report.

Contest

Today's contest – steam locomotives
Next month – Diesel and Other Motive Power
We will have another challenge in December.
Larry Richards would like to see more participation in the contests.

Clinic

David Olivero – Styrofoam Scenery
March – Mark Maynard – Scenery (Larry asked

other members to bring scenery ideas to share as well)

April - Jerry Doyle – Timetable and train order operations
May – Steel is King

Librarian

The library is available for check out today. Mark Maynard's rolling stock clinic from the January meeting is now part of our library.

Raffle

Tom mentioned that most donations to the raffle are HO scale and we could use more N scale donations.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made to change the May meeting to May 5 in order to avoid conflicting with the Mother's Day weekend. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

None

Future Meetings:

March 10 – St Albans Depot
April 14 – St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned at 2:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Photo by Jerry Doyle

There was but one entry in the February contest but it sure looks good. Congratulations to Dale Osburn for a great model. Dale tells us he added McHenry couplers and weathered this Mantua locomotive.

The March contest will be every kind of motive power except steam so bring those diesels, electrics, traction, or whatever else you might have.



NMRA Elections

The time for NMRA elections is at hand. By now you should have received, either by email or snail mail, instructions for voting. Those with emails on file with National will have the option to vote electronically. If you would rather vote by paper you may. Members without email addresses on file can only vote by paper ballot.

All members, excluding family and RailPass members,

are eligible to vote for President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Special Projects, and At Large North American Director. Those members residing in West Virginia can also vote for Eastern District Director. Be sure to read the statements submitted by the candidates so you can make an enlightened selection.

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

April	April 2
May	April 23
June	May 28
July	July 2

Coal Division T-Trak Special Interest Group Sam Delauter

Typically, the members of the Coal Division get the opportunity to be in the St. Albans Depot only once a month. This month, however, a number of us met at the depot for a special meeting. Actually there was a turn out of eight with all but two being Coal Division members. At this point, I am sure many of you are asking what this meeting was for and how can I be involved. I would like to take a minute to elaborate on the meeting and invite all of you to come and join us in the future. First, a little history about when I rejoined the hobby is in order. After I got out of college, I took an interest in becoming involved in the hobby again. I looked at the local clubs and they were all based in HO scale and I did not know about the NMRA. I didn't have the finances to do multiple scales. I decided to not join a club to concentrate my finances and modeling on N scale. Fast forward six years and there is still not a local N scale group. Although I have attempted to start one several times, I still had no

luck. After a couple of years in the NMRA and attending many shows, I felt that I had enough resources and enough networking to give it a try again.

February 24th I hosted the organizational meeting for the then titled West Virginia N Scale Modular Group. We had a good turnout at the meeting, got our basic standards lined out to start a T-Trak group, and to start building the modules. After much discussion, we decided that instead of starting a separate group that we would function as a special interest group of the NMRA. We felt that it would not only benefit and promote the hobby, but it would also help both grow the NMRA and also our modular group. After the initial meeting, we will have two new NMRA members and also a member who has not been active who plans to start coming to meetings. We plan to meet monthly after the regular NMRA meeting and would love to see modelers of all scales join the Coal Division T-Trak Special Interest Group.

Layout Progress Bob Osburn

These pictures are of a modified Walthers Lumber Yard and Office, both with LED lighting. This is the first structure I have install on my railroad acquisition, celebrated with a glass of wine.



MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As noted in the meeting minutes, I was in Atlanta February 10 observing the NMRA Board of Directors meeting and missed what sounded like a great event in St. Albans. Why was the meeting in Atlanta? It turns out that two of the attendees live in Atlanta. Four others live within reasonable driving distance of Atlanta. This keeps the transportation costs down. The meeting was at an airport hotel further reducing the need to rent cars. In spite of what some folks might believe, there really is an effort to keep the costs of these meetings under control. In case you are wondering, my costs are not reimbursed as I am not an officer, board member, or department head.

Some suggest that these meetings can be conducted electronically. That sounds good until you realize that the participants are from North America, Europe, and Australia. Which lucky soul gets to spend 8 to 12 hours meeting all night? In addition, meeting face to face allows off line chats during breaks and meals. I had the opportunity to discuss aspects of the Discount Program with a board

member and the marketing consultant.

So, what did the board accomplish? We heard that some entities are now asking for higher amounts of insurance. The board voted to deal with this on a case by case basis. It is noted that there would be a higher cost for additional insurance. A significant policy was enacted regarding the use of NMRA resources in election campaigns for NMRA offices. This policy says no NMRA resource (newsletters, meetings, social media, membership lists, web sites, or anything else) may be used to favor one candidate over another. Those are the big ones, the full draft of the meeting minutes are not yet available. Once posted I'll let you know where to find them.

The Pennsylvania Southern track renovation progress continues. The main line from the north end of Houston to the south end of the Munson Viaduct has been replaced. This includes the main line switch at Canonsburg. The industrial tracks there still need some work before the March 8 operating session.

Thousands of negatives still need



your positive support.

So do the thousands of plans, photos, and slides from our Kalmbach Memorial Library that we're working to digitize so that members can access them from their own computer. The good news is that the scanning is well underway. The better news is that our image library is even larger than we thought!

Which is why we still need your help. The more funds we receive, the more images we can make available.

If you haven't contributed to the Diamond Club, do it now:

Silver Level – Contribute \$75 and receive a silver 75th Anniversary commemorative pin and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.



Gold Level – Contribute \$750 and receive a gold 75th Anniversary pin, a golf shirt with the Anniversary logo, and have your name listed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Diamond Level – Contribute \$7,500 and receive a diamond-and-gold Anniversary pin, a golf shirt and sweater with the Anniversary logo and your embroidered name, a print of the NMRA's 75th Anniversary commemorative painting, and have your name and photo printed in *NMRA Magazine*.

Make a contribution that will make a difference for decades. Visit www.nmra.org/diamondclub or call HQ at 423-892-2846 to contribute.



35th Annual Model Railroad Show

(Former Greenbo Show)

KYOVA Mall

10699 US-60
Ashland, KY 41101
(2.2 miles from I-64 Exit 185)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND

March 17 and 18, 2018



Saturday.....10am – 8pm

Sunday Noon till 4:30pm

Model Railroads – Hobby Shops

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New and Used Model Train Equipment

Free Admission

Sponsored by the Appalachian Model Railroad Society

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Numerous Rail and Non-Rail Clinics

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Hal Miller, Editor of *Model Railroader!*
Non-Rail Luncheon and Saturday Banquet



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Extra Large White Elephant Sale!
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Layouts at Hotel + *EnterTrainment Junction*
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See form at our booth or www.cincy-div7.org

Abundant Layout Events

67 layouts, 30 published, 10 in GMR, 5 at EJ
 Bob Lawson and Larry Bonhaus on Thurs Aft
 Great Model RR Tours + Hotel, EJ Layouts,
 Operating Sessions, Layout Open Houses



Fantastic Rail Industry Tours

- Matandy Steel
- Cincinnati Barge & Rail Terminal
- Excel Logistics Tropicana
- Enerfab Brighton Tru-Edge
- Deluxe Cincinnati Railfanning



Fabulous Non-Rail Activities

- Findlay Market & Conservatory Tour
- Am. Sign Museum & Spring Grove Tour
- Luncheon with Cookie Decorating Chef
- Genealogy & Greeting Card Clinics
- Meet & Greet w/ Wine Tasting
- Water Aerobics Class



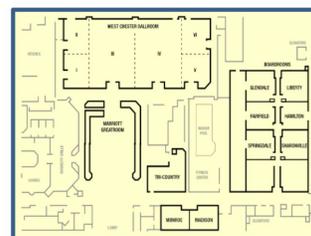
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- Gerry Leone, Allen McClelland,
- Lou Sassi, Hal Miller, Steve King,
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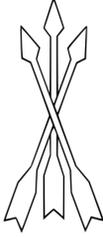
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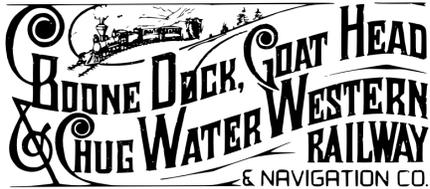
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Woody Higginbotham - Superintendent



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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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