



UP THE HOLLER

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



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

How Sweet It Is!! I am showing my age by using that signature line of Jackie Gleason's from the show I watched growing up on our local channel 5, Dumont TV. But the sentiment certainly fits the experience of Toni Lynn and myself at the recent Mid Central Region convention in the Cincinnati area. The convention itself was very well organized, kudos to Division 7 and our Board of Directors. There was wonderful dining at the venue and within walking distance. To top it all off, Toni Lynn misses her Trader Joe's supermarket on Long Island. Lo and behold, there was a Trader Joe's in Cincinnati and she was able to load up with her favorite goodies before the ride home. But back to the convention itself I renewed acquaintances with old friends from the other Divisions and attended several really good clinics. I did spend a good deal of my time in the contest room helping log in entries. On Saturday I was privileged to serve as a judge in the detail category. All in all we both enjoyed our visit, the hospitality of Division 7, and the wonderful Cincinnati area. I would like to have seen more Division 9 members in attendance. The regional conventions are an affordable and totally enjoyable experience.

One of the things that really impressed me was the level of enthusiasm for the T TRAK concept. It seems to have caught fire in the Region. Armchair modelers with very limited space can now participate by incorporating their T TRAK modules with other modelers to create a modular layout.

Once again, as in so many of our activities, Divisional, Regional and National; I left newly enthused about the hobby and so enjoyed the company of the many great friends it has brought into my life.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bob Osburn Assistant Superintendent

I always enjoy our trip to Parkersburg for the “*Steel is King*” event. It is great to see Dave’s and Paul’s progress on their layouts and I always come away with some new ideas. Thanks to Paul and his wife, and Dave and his family, we really enjoyed everything. This year we were also treated to view the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club’s massive collection of model railroads. We were all surprised at how many square feet the layouts covered and in so many different scales. They have something to really be proud of.

Tony Puccini, David Oliverio, and I took a Saturday road trip to the 10th Annual Ohio N Scale Weekend in Columbus. We had heard that this is a wonderful show and we were not disappointed!! Two large arenas were filled with layouts and vendors--all N-Scale--not an item of HO did I see. Our own Ed Keith was there as a vendor and he was selling items as fast as he could set them out. Every time we checked in on him, he had a big smile on his face and pockets bulging with money. I counted at least 12 very nice N-Scale modular layouts and one T-Trak display. The modeler with the T-Trak modules was very informative and answered a lot of questions. We all purchased quite a collection of items at very good prices. It

was an excellent trip and we have already marked our calendar for next year’s show.

Our annual Picnic on the Platform is scheduled for the July meeting. This is always a great success and enjoyed by all. I will pass around a sign-up slip at the June meeting for items needed for the picnic. If you sign up for something and cannot make it to the picnic, please let us know in advance so we can reassign the item. If you do not wish to bring anything on the list you will have the opportunity to donate \$5.00 toward the purchase of drinks and other items as we did last year. A summary of this list will appear in the July newsletter just to remind you of what you signed up to bring.

At the May meeting, members approved the purchase of 6 folding tables for the Division to use at the Depot. The tables will be clearly marked that they are the property of Division 9. We are also working on a display center at the depot that will contain information about membership, achievement program, library, contest, meeting dates, T-Trak, etc. Finally, we are working on a brochure that explains who we are that can be distributed to interested modelers and potential members.

UPCOMING CLINICS

Bob Osburn, Clinic Manager

There was no clinic for May, as we were in Parkersburg.

The clinic for June will demonstrate technology to develop track plans. This clinic, presented jointly by David Oliverio and Bob Weinheimer, will demonstrate the use of computer aided design software for model railroad planning. David and Bob plan to start with a little discussion of the reasons for using computer aided design as well as the features of a couple of products. After that, each will demonstrate the drawing of a simple layout in real time with an explanation of each action in the process. If time permits after the meeting, attendees can try their hand with either program. This should be very interesting and informative. From feedback I have heard, this appears to be a much anticipated clinic.

The July clinic will be presented jointly by Tom Harris and Mark Maynard. They will demonstrate how to produce cloud formations for our backdrops and it will include some hands-on participation.

The theme for our June MADD session will be anything Non Revenue except cabooses. Remember the MADD session is a time for us to discuss, display, ask questions, and solve modeling projects as a group.

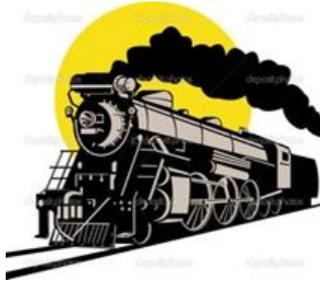
The Company Store will be open for the June meeting. If you have something to sell, please bring it and add to the collection. Stickers will be available to mark your item with name and asking price—10% of a sell will go into the division coffers.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| July | July 2 |
| August | July 27 |
| September | August 27 |



**Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
*“Non Revenue Equipment”***

Saturday June 9, 2018

- 1:00 Depot Open**
Social Time, bring in contest entries:
Non revenue equipment except ca-booses.
- 2:00 Superintendent’s Briefing**
- 2:30 Contest Results**
Raffle
- 3:00 Clinic: “Computer Aided Layout De-sign” by David Oliverio and Bob Weinheimer**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

Dave Stout's Home
Parkersburg, WV
May 5, 2018 (rain 68°)
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Dan Mulhearn at 1:05 p.m. to avoid incoming showers.

Members introduced themselves. There were several guests at the meeting.

Division Clerk Report

March Minutes approved
Treasurer's report unavailable due to technical difficulties (Balance is \$8,871.97)
Pike Ads \$10
Raffle Revenue \$0
Company Store Revenue \$0

Superintendent Report

Dan thanked Davey and Rhonda for hosting today's meeting. He asked members to keep Dave Stout in their thoughts and prayers.

Dan is looking forward to the MCR convention this month in Cincinnati. He also mentioned that his visit to Paul Lapointe's layout was an inspiration for him to get busy.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn thanked everyone for coming today.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer offered thanks to all the regular contributors. New contributions are always welcome.

Achievement Program

We are waiting for Dale Osburn's Golden Spike award to arrive.

Membership

No Report.

Librarian

There has been a great response to using our library. Materials can be checked out for multiple meetings. The library is available for check out when we have a meeting at the depot.

Contest

Today's contest is Anything Steel.

Clinic

Next month's clinic – Track planning software
July – Clouds/Picnic on the Platform

Raffle

Tom thanked members for their contributions. It's a great way to have things you'll probably never use find a use on someone's railroad.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bob Osburn talked about the July picnic. There will be a sign-up list at the next meeting for what members will bring. He also mentioned the idea of using an information display at the depot for Division 9.

Bob Weinheimer asked about tables to be used for the T-Track project. Bob Osburn suggested we could buy new tables for the display; the tables available at the depot are in rough shape. Bob Weinheimer made a motion to allocate \$300 to purchase six tables. The motion passed unanimously. Bob Osburn will be in charge of the getting the tables.

Announcements

The Mid-Central Region convention will be held in Cincinnati May 17-20.

The July meeting will be our annual picnic at the depot.

The St Albans depot will be painted May 17.

Dan Mulhearn mentioned that the Charleston, WV Amtrak station is being closed as a manned station. It was the last manned station in West Virginia.

Sam Delauter reminded everyone about the T-Track end modules which he donated to Division 9. We will need to put scenery on them; it could be a future clinic.

Future Meetings:

June 9 – St Albans Depot
July 14 – St Albans Depot

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Photos by Bob Weinheimer

There were only two entries in the “Steel is King” contest. The winning entry was a slag pot on a flat car by Bob Osburn. Bob’s work (in N scale) was inspired by Bob Frankrone’s article in the May 2018 NMRA Magazine “Love Those Loads”. Bob Frankrone’s work was done in HO scale. Bob Osburn writes “The depressed center flat car was no problem. A few searches on the internet yielded just the rolling stock I needed. The slag pot was another problem. N Scale slag pots are very hard to obtain, especially in the time frame I needed it in. My only choice was to try to scratch build one. I first looked through the house and work shop for anything that resembled a slag pot - no luck. So out came the miniature lathe and in a little while I had produced a mold so I could use a vacuum former to make the body of the slag pot. The details ap-

plied to the pot are mostly styrene strip formed by a little cutting and filing. The trunnions are made from an N scale truck pivot pin and the support cribbing was fashioned from some scale lumber. Eye hooks were added to the flat car and sewing thread was used for the tiedown cables”. The photo and description was sent to Bob Frankrone who was quite pleased to see his work was such an inspiration. It then went to the NMRA Magazine editor and might end up as a letter to the editor. Time will tell.

That other entry was by Bob Weinheimer who had detailed an old AHM covered coil car. The top was removed and the interior scratch built. Ladders and grab irons were replaced. The car was painted and lettered for P&LE and lightly weathered.



Above is an overall shot of the car.

To the left is a closer shot of the slag pot. Remember, this is N scale!

COAL DIVISION T-TRAK SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Sam Delauter

This past month, we had a great meeting in Parkersburg. Not only did we get to see two great layouts by our hosts within our division, we also got to visit the Mid Ohio Valley Model Rail Club. For those that did not get to make it to the meeting, you really missed out. Many thanks to our hosts for a great time and for opening their homes to us. For those who have not been to the train club in Parkersburg, they have something for everyone. They have trains in all scales from Z to G and were great hosts who were ready to run the layouts and eager to talk to all of our members.

I did not hold a T-Trak meeting in Parkersburg to give our members more time at the train club but we will meet after the June meeting. I have been in contact with Bruce DeMaeyer. He invited us to several events that Division 10 is a part of. The first is the Morehead Train Show on August 25-28, 2018. The joint T-Trak layout will

be setup on the first day of the show only. The second show will be in Lexington, September 15, 2018. This is a one day show that Division 10 hosts each year at one of the local libraries. They use the event to help educate the general public about railroads and model trains. Bruce is making plans to bring his group to join in with us at KVRA Show in February and we need to reciprocate by attending the events that we have been invited to. I will speak more on this at the June meeting.

Bruce has received an award from the NMRA for his contributions of heading up T-Trak within our region. He has been asked to be the region coordinator of T-Trak and has secured table space at the 2019 Mid Central Region Convention. T-Trak has been picking up a lot of steam and with momentum that it has been picking will be on the national level before too long.

MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST 2018 SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------|--|
| January | Modeler's Choice |
| February | Steam Locomotives |
| March | Locomotives Other Than Steam |
| April | Cabooses |
| May | Anything Steel Related |
| June | Non Revenue except Cabooses |
| July | Structures |
| August | Freight Cars |
| September | Photo, Model or Prototype |
| October | Open Loads (flats, gondolas, hoppers) |
| November | Passenger Cars |
| December | Second Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Challenges. Details and kick off in October |

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MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

The time since the last newsletter has been a week longer than usual due to the early May event date and quite a lot has happened in that time. Several of the regular contributors have written about Steel is King. The weather wasn't the best and that might have kept the attendance down a bit. Those who did not get there missed a good day. Bob Osburn's contest entry was very good with a good story that might end up in the NMRA Magazine. Paul Lapointe's layout has made progress along with some design changes to allow for a new cat room. Attend next time to see what that is all about. The Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club was a great addition to the day with an amazing use of space for layouts of all scales.

If Steel is King wasn't enough, there was the Mid Central Region convention Cincinnati and the 10th Annual Ohio N Scale Weekend in Columbus on the same weekend. While we had a good turnout of Coal Division members in Cincinnati, I suspect we lost a few to the event in Columbus. Next year they will be on different weekends so that conflict can be avoided.

The convention was incredible with an attendance of 367 including 90 spouses. That sort of attendance has not been seen in decades. Many attendees came from outside the Region, I saw lots of name tags from Illinois and Michigan. I also saw some from New York city and Arizona. I heard folks comparing this event to a small National convention. The biggest gripe was having to decide which of the many activities to choose from.

As I get to southwestern Ohio frequently and have the opportunity to visit and operate on many layouts, I left space on the tours and operating sessions for those who are not so fortunate. My first activity was to present a clinic early Friday morning. While I didn't have a big crowd, those who came were all awake and alert and asked many good questions.

Then my duties as Region President got underway. Later Friday morning I was in a "Meet the Leadership" forum. Normally that means "Meet the MCR Officers" but this one was different. This convention was more like a National convention as there were many member of the National Leadership. NMRA President Charlie Getz was there. NMRA President Elect Pete Magoun was there. NMRA Vice President for Special Projects Gerry Leone was there. NMRA Chief Financial Officer Frank Koch was there. NMRA Directors Mike Brestel and Bill Neale were there. Finally, NMRA Marketing Consultant Christina Zambri was there. I should note that Mike Brestel and Frank Koch are also Cincinnati Division members so they had no excuse to be absent. The forum was mainly a discussion of the project at the California State Railroad Museum. Later that evening I chaired the MCR Board meeting with Messrs. Getz, Magoun, Koch, and Brestel pre-

sent. They were great observers speaking only when spoken to. The big action of the evening was to adjust the Regulations to resolve some conflicts regarding the nomination process. In another action we agreed to open discussions with the North Central Region and the Mid West Region for a three way convention in 2022. Nothing more than that has been decided, the date and location are undecided at this point.

The Saturday evening banquet was an enjoyable experience. The food was actually pretty good and Gerry Leone, the speaker, was amusing. If you want to see the talk, go to Facebook and find the NMRA Mid-Central Region page. Christina Zambri did a Facebook live presentation of Gerry's talk and you can watch all 30 minutes of it. Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of contest awards. The model contest was thin but the photo contest was huge. I got my turn after that. I had to conduct the Annual Meeting, something of a formality that lasts but a few seconds. After that it was time for a short State of the Region talk. Finally, I had the honor of presenting the MCR Directors Award to Dave Neff of Division 5 for his efforts in mentoring the formation of Division 12. John Shields of Division 7 then presented the Russ Wenderfer Award to Bruce DeMaeyer of Division 10 for his efforts to promote the hobby and the NMRA via the T-Trak program. The evening closed with a presentation by Division 1 for the 2019 convention. Mark your calendar for May 2-5, 2019 in Boardman, Ohio.

Sunday morning we had another meeting of Division Superintendents and many of the National folks. This is a time to discuss at more length items that are of interest but not yet ready for Board action. The creators of the Partnership Program, Gerry Leone and Christina Zambri, worked with us on how we might better present this program to members. Clearly, this is something that must be done at the Division level. A number of ideas were discussed including presenting a clinic or program by showing the web pages. T-Trak was also discussed and two modules were on display.

As Sam Delauter notes, T-Trak is certainly getting a considerable amount of attention. The opportunities for the Coal Division modules appear to be growing with Lexington, Morehead, and even the KVRC shows. Morehead is attractive as it is not far, 2 hours from Charleston and less from Huntington and Ashland. I bought one of the 1x2 foot module kits and have assembled it, it went smoothly. I have sketched out a track plan that has been approved by Sam and will include a Walthers Glacial Gravel company. I have purchased the kit and my first reaction is that the parts all seem so small... I guess it is N scale and I'm just accustomed to HO.



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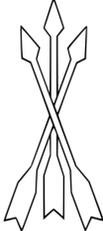
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

If you received this newsletter via the US Postal Service and have an email address, please let us know so we can save printing and postage costs. Send a note to editor@coaldivision.org to get onto the email distribution list for Up The Holler.

**June 9
St. Albans Depot**

**July 14
St. Albans Depot**

**August 11
St. Albans Depot**

**September 8
West Portsmouth, OH**