

UP THE HOLLER

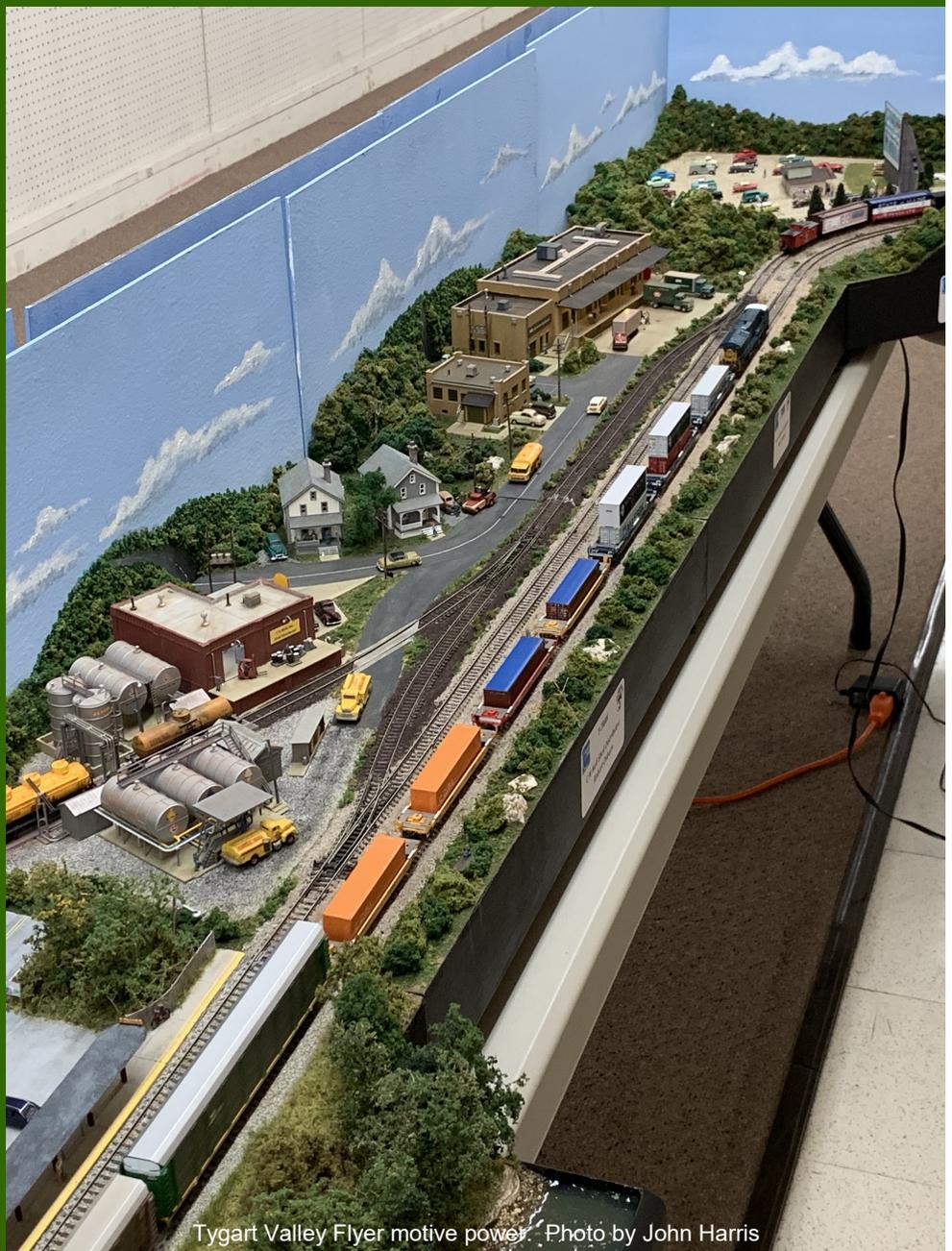


DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

April 2020

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T-Trak layout at the February KVRA show. Photo by Bob Weinheimer

Tygart Valley Flyer motive power. Photo by John Harris

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER**Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent**

Back in the 1700s, when we colonists were grumbling about the burden of British rule, there was a popular song in England titled “The World Turned Upside Down”. I believe now we are singing that song again. I have never seen in my long lifetime a situation as we are in. Bob Osburn and I conferred and cancelled our meeting in April at St. Albans. Meanwhile Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe have announced they will not be hosting the STEEL IS KING event in Parkersburg in May. Perhaps we may be able to have some event in May depending on how this pandemic progresses. But be of good cheer. Bob Osburn gave me a PEP TALK, all in capital letters and explanation points about what an opportunity this is to get some put off modeling done. Bob Weinheimer has cancelled his April, and possibly May op sessions. But he sees this as a maintenance window to get several projects done. So, hunker down, stay well. and let our hobby get you through this crisis.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL**Bob Osburn, Assistant Superintendent**

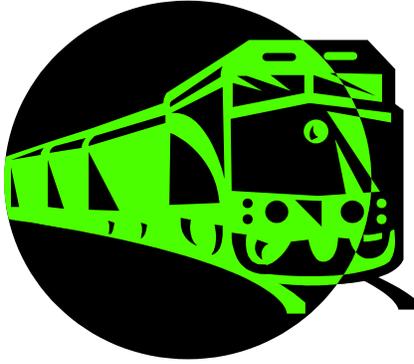
The past few weeks have been pretty intense. We’ve had to make changes, large and small, that just a few months ago would have been unthinkable. As for Division 9, these changes started at our March meeting. Questions circulated about whether to have the meeting or not. Of greatest concern was the safety of our members. In the end, we agreed that if special precautions were taken to address safety issues, the meeting should be held. The attendance sheet was not passed around, seating was spaced farther apart, the meeting agenda was placed in the seats instead of one-to-one contact, surfaces were wiped down with disinfecting wipes, antibacterial hand soap was available in the restroom, and everyone was requested to practice social distancing. Yes, the attendance was smaller yet we must respect the decision of those who were not present, after all, most of us fall into the category of being the most vulnerable to COVID-19.

The meeting started with our normal Welcome and Introduction. Two new members, Robert Perez and Jedidiah Lyle, introduced themselves and were welcomed aboard. The rest of the business session was very short with reports from the Officers and Committee Chairs present. A few business items were discussed and are reflected in the minutes published in this newsletter. The business meeting was adjourned and then we were entertained with a wonderful clinic. Fred Soward and his wife Barbara traveled from Louisville, KY (Division 8) and presented a very interesting clinic, *Repurposing Freight Cars*. Fred is a fantastic presenter and we all enjoyed his clinic.

It appears it may be awhile before we can meet again as a group at the Depot. We can’t forget our model railroad family and I encourage you to reach out to other members while we fight this awful virus. It would be easy to get depressed and just sit around and do nothing but we are better than that. The Stay-at Home orders given to us by our Governors have given us a great chance to work on some of those projects we started but never finished. Getting models ready for future contests or bringing out old issues of magazines or books may lead you to a new project. I also encourage you to take a picture or write an article describing something you are working on and submit it to Bob for the newsletter, I’m sure he will be needing articles and pictures for the next several issues. If you are in need of some supplies, a fellow modeler may be able to help you out. I have also been in contact with Chuck and Sherri Willey of WV Hobbies & Crafts and Nitro Hobbies. They are working out of their store at Teays Valley and will be glad to provide drive-up or mail order service. This is some hard times for small business and I am sure they would appreciate anything you can do to help.

In closing, I would encourage you to be a good neighbor, help where you can, make smart choices, support your local small businesses, and take care of yourself and family. WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

Hope to be back together soon.



Upcoming Coal Division Monthly Railfun Events

Saturday April 11, 2020
Cancelled due to COVID-19

Saturday May 2, 2020
“Steel is King”
Cancelled due to COVID –19

Saturday June 13
Hopefully...

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

May	April 27
June	May 27
July	July 1
August	July 29
September	September 2

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2019

St. Albans, WV

Meeting called to order by Assistant Superintendent Bob Osburn at 12:55 p.m.

Members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

February Minutes approved
Treasury Balance is \$8,521.35.
Company Store \$1.
Raffle February \$50.
Pike Ads \$0.
Clerk's note: The May meeting will be on the 2nd.
Two conflicting dates appeared in the published January minutes.

Superintendent Report

Dan Mulhearn was unable to attend today.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bob Osburn noted he's been in contact with Dan and everyone wishes him well. He thanked everyone for attending today with the current issues.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer is always looking for materials.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer will be following up with Sam Delauter for Association Volunteer. Dan Mulhearn now qualifies for Association Official and Bob will be working with him on this.

Librarian

Bill Wadsworth had the library available to checkout today.

Contest

Dale Osburn mentioned some ideas for this year's Gary Burdette Modeling Challenge. We need to make a decision soon as to which we'll do. Bar Mills has offered a discount on kits if we decide on this option. Sam Delauter expressed support for the Bar Mills kit. Dale will check into the cost.

Clinic

April - Bob Osburn – Scratchbuilt Street Lights
May Steel Is King - Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe's home layouts will be open before and after the meeting.

Membership

John Harris thanked those who helped with the St Albans show and especially the T-Track display.

Raffle

No raffle today.

T-Track

Sam Delauter thanked participants for participation in the display at last month's St Albans show.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bob Osburn brought up the issue of outside issues such as weather or the current COVID-19 virus. A phone tree was discussed as a way to inform members. We will try text notification via cell phones. Fred Soward, Division 8 Superintendent, explained how it was done in that division.

Tony Puccini made a recommendation to handle donations in lieu of flowers for funerals. It was agreed that a limit of \$50 be set for donations to the appropriate charity.

Announcements

AMRS KYOWVA Mall show March 14 & 15
SACOM C&O Modelers Weekend at Hawks Nest
March 27-29

Sam Delauter announced that Jim Cheney from Madison, WV is in ICU.

The Kanawha Valley Scale Modelers will have a model contest at the end of March.

Future Meetings:

April 11 – St Albans Depot
May 2 – Steel is King Parkersburg, WV.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Dale Osburn

Photo by Dale Osburn

In March we had only one entry in the contest. Larry Richards entered his Craig's Fork Railway HO_n30 center cab diesel.

- First Place (Larry Richards)
Craig's Fork Railway HO_n30 center cab diesel
- Atlas N scale Baldwin VO 1000 chassis.
 - Body scratchbuilt using .015" styrene.
 - Exhaust was made using two types of Plastruct tubing.
 - Heated /stretched plastic sprue was used to make door hinges and handles.

- HO details were horns, bell and headlight using MV lenses.
- Model was painted using Testors medium green enamel.
- Microscale lettering and stripes were added to the model.
- Light weathering was done using acrylic paints.

We will not be having a contest till June. At that time the contest shall be Non Revenue except Cabooses.



MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST 2020 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	Fourth Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge. Details and kick off in October



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CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

First and foremost, I have some people to thank. It seems that I missed the deadline for the March newsletter. I would like to thank those who helped out and gave a clinic at the KVRA show. Many thanks to Mark Maynard, Bob Weinheimer, Randy Allio, and Robert Osburn.

The clinic for March was presented by Fred Soward from Louisville. Fred and his wife Barbara made a trip to the Coal Division meeting, the clinic was on Repurposing Models. The clinic was very well done with many model and prototype examples of what you can do to give a new use to an old model.

Many thanks to all who have been giving the clinics. This a major part of what the NMRA is about and it is much appreciated.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, there have been some changes to the schedule. Since we will not be having our meeting for the next couple months, the scheduled clinics have been moved. This leaves two clinics that still need to be filled. Please let me know if you have an interest in giving a clinic or have any ideas for clinics.

June	Scratchbuilding street lights by Robert Osburn
July	Making Mountains by Tom Harris
August	
September	
October	Visit the Crusty Mountain in Portsmouth
November	Bluefield Train Show
December	4th Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Square Foot Challenge

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

I am sure we are all feeling like the train that was 2020 has been derailed. Certainly it has been put on a siding for now. I hope all have adjusted and are moving forward with this new normal and are staying safe and healthy. Like many others I have been working from home and doing what I need to keep family and others safe. Biggest change is a significant reduction in commute time.

One of the unexpected consequences of having this additional time at home is an increase in time to work on a project or two on the railroad. I would imagine that a few of you have had a little more time to do the same. For me work continues on the Babcock Coal and Coke operation. Coal bins and their chutes have been fabricated and electromagnetic slide switches installed. Wiring has been extended through the structure and works off the DC of the layout. Meanwhile, track is being re-worked to better work with the 3 track leads that feed the tipple. This is being done in a modular fashion as it allows easier access to a remote area of the layout, but will also allow this section to be portable. This will provide the possibility of a future clinic.

I have also spent some time viewing a few YouTube videos during this down time. These have included a couple of "how to" videos. I have particularly enjoyed Martin of Sweden. While his accent is sometimes a bit hard to follow, he does have some good tips and it is interesting to see the European flavor to railroading. Other videos I have enjoyed are the ones on coal hauling, C&O models, and a few on the N&W. Whatever your modeling interests, I am sure there are a few projects or videos that will help break up the "extra" time on your hands.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As you can see elsewhere, COVID-19 has interrupted our lives in an effort to save many other lives. NMRA activities are not essential and many, including Region conventions and the Coal Division's next two meetings, have been cancelled. What about the Mid Central Region convention in Pittsburgh in late May? There is considerable pressure to cancel and the host Division is working on an exit strategy that will not be financially burdensome. Right now it is still planned but that could change. The National Convention is in the middle of July and is still planned.

The day after our March meeting, Fred and Barbara Soward and I traveled to Delmont, PA for the Division 2 meeting. It was held at the Scenic Express warehouse. Scenic Express makes its own products and resells those of many different manufacturers including Woodland Scenics. If it has a use in model railroading or other scenic models, you can find it there. The doors opened early enough that we could shop and shop and shop. And that is just what we did. The Pennsylvania Southern

now features some static grass, the amount should increase during the maintenance window mentioned below.

The Pennsylvania Southern has seen some changes. Its new dispatching office was completed and the contractor left for good just about two hours before I wrote this on March 30. In addition to being a dispatcher's office, it is also the laundry room. See the photos on the next page. One photo shows the dispatcher's desk with the computer monitor, a bit of paperwork in place, and the cords that supply power and data to the train order signal system. The surface also serves as a laundry folding table. The other big change is that the other end of the room can now serve as the refreshment center with the refrigerator below the cabinet and the snacks on the counter. Thanks to Randy Allio and J&R Creations for a job well done.

Alas, the April session has been cancelled and it's not looking good for May. On the other hand, that leaves a good window for track and layout maintenance.



Dispatcher/laundry end of the room



Refreshment center end of room, the black blob below the counter is the fridge

Sam's Z Scale Corner Sam Delauter

It's been awhile but I am back with another installment of The Corner. Since my last installment, I have started working on the layout again. However there have been quite a bit of changes.

The first and most important is that I have switched to Atlas track. When I wrote the article on track, Atlas only had the flex track available. Since then, Atlas has released a left and right #6 turnout and a 19 degree crossing. The switches have a combination of features common on the Atlas code 55 and Peco switches in n scale. The Z scale switches feature an isolated electrofrog like the Atlas switches and sprung points like the Peco product. These switches are a game changer for me as there aren't many good switches available in Z scale and there are even fewer options for a switch machine. The Atlas track has the prototypical tie spacing for American mainlines. Atlas fills the void in all these categories like no other track has in the past. The Atlas Z scale track helps bring Z scale closer to the quality of the larger scales and makes Z scale less of a novelty.

The other major change is that I have changed directions with my Z scale modeling. I had been modeling Conrail and Norfolk Southern in the late 1990's through the present time. Although I still have my Conrail and Norfolk Southern equipment and may run them from time to time, I have started modeling the Chessie System/

CSX in the late 70s and early 80s in West Virginia.

The layout will be a single mainline with passing sidings and will be split down the middle with a mountain as a scenic divider. One side will feature a small yard and a small industry. The other side will be mostly scenic. I am not modeling anywhere in particular in the New River Gorge but am trying to model the general look and feel. The track will sit above the river on side of the hill as it follows the river as it curves through the Gorge.

At this point in time, I have most of the track work done and have started to work on the landforms. I will be adding a couple of more layers of foam to the mountain. Each layer of foam is 1.5" thick. In Z scale, 1.5" scales out to be 27.5'. The river will probably be dug down into the foam a bit. On the opposite side of the river from the C&O main, I will have a small strip of track for a test/programming track.

Over the last year, I have been doing a lot of planning; however I am an Erie modeler and not a C&O/Chessie modeler. I have been working closely with my friend Tyler Wylie and he has been instrumental to getting the layout design to its current state. I am still in the early stages of this layout which all means that I am still somewhat in the design stage. Any comments, questions and suggestions are welcome as I am open to others ideas.

See the photos on the next page.





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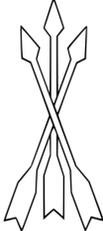
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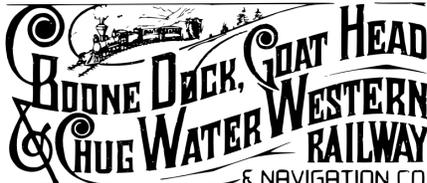
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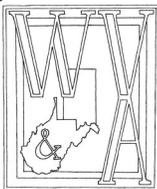


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April 11

Cancelled due to COVID-19

May 2

Steel is King

Cancelled due to COVID-19

June 13

St. Albans Depot

July 11

St. Albans Depot