



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

May 2021

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

How will our hobby and associated organizations look in the future? At the April meeting a virtual presentation by James Knabb gave us a glimpse of what to expect. James represents a new generation of model railroaders. He is a 19 year old college student who lives in Texas and has a passion for railroads and railroad modeling. Being a member of Gen Z -- people born from 1995 to 2010—he is a true digital native and share a common ideology. From his earliest youth, he has been exposed to the internet, to social networks, and other forms of mobile platforms. This exposure has produced a generation very comfortable with collecting and living in the virtual/electronic world and now many of these young people like James have an interest in model railroading. His group isn't immune from some of the same problems we all faced getting into model railroading such as limited financial resources and space limitations but their course takes a turn because of their digital savvy and ability to be a "communaholic". Social media groups and unlimited electronic resources will be their normal platforms. Whether you be a Baby Boomer (1940-1959), Gen X (1960-1979), Gen Y (1980-1994), or Gen Z (1995-2010), we have all added the values and ideology that our generation has to provide changes to our hobby. Finally, groups like the Coal Division need to recognize the difference each generation provides and accept or make changes needed to support every present and potential member. Life is fluid—so is an organization.

Much of the business session of the meeting was devoted to discussion of James's presentation and how we can use his information to keep and attract new members. It was really rewarding to see so many members sharing their ideas on membership. The past year has been a tough one for membership, not only for the Coal Division, but across the NMRA as a whole. If you have not renewed your membership or decided not to rejoin, please reconsider as we really need you now more than ever. Things are starting to change, we'll soon be back at the Depot and seeing each other again at train shows and events. The one thing COVID-19 had shown is we miss and enjoy each other's company. I hope to see you virtually May 8th and with some luck in-person for the June 12th meeting. Thanks for being aboard!!

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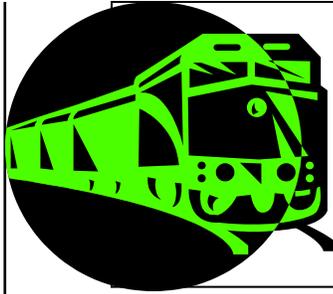
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Upcoming Coal Division Monthly Railfun Events

Saturday May 8

1 PM

Virtual Division Membership Meeting

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Approval of Minutes from the last meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Committee Chairs Reports**
- **Bring and Brag: Anything Steel Related**
- **Open Discussion/Questions (One at a time please)**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Clinic: Installing Interiors in DPM Kits by Robert Osburn**

Next Event

Saturday June 12, 2021

Zoom? In Person?

MAY VIRTUAL DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jerry Doyle

We've all been doing our part for COVID-19 isolation measures. This means we won't be meeting in person for several months but there is another way to stay connected.

Our May meeting will be held remotely using Zoom which is very easy to use. You can use a laptop (provided it has a webcam), tablet, or smart phone. Just use the link provided below. You'll be prompted on how to connect with your particular device. You can also join with a voice

-only connection by calling one of the numbers listed.

We are planning to conduct a short business meeting followed by show-and-tell where you can show everyone what you've been working on. There will also be a railroad related clinic and possibly more.

Our meeting will be Saturday May 8 at our regular time of 1 p.m.

Topic: NMRA MCR Division 9 May Meeting
Time: May 8, 2021 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94198781308>

Meeting ID: 941 9878 1308

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US

First Time Users

- On a computer: The **FIRST TIME** you open a Zoom meeting link you will be asked to download a small Zoom application file. Follow all the typical steps and allow anything requested by the app as it installs.
- On a smart phone or tablet: **BEFORE** you open the Zoom link, go to the app store and download the Zoom Cloud Meetings app from Meet Happy (the app publisher).

To join a Zoom meeting:

- See the meeting invitation above
- Open that link 10 minutes prior to the meeting
- Accept any requests for video and/or microphone
- MUTE your microphone

Other pointers

- Make sure your connection is strong
- If you have a weak connection, disconnect other devices from your home network
- For your first time, don't wait until the last minute to join
- Use the **Chat** button to view and make comments or post questions
- Click the **Invite** button to send meeting information to others
- If everything freezes, click **Leave Meeting** and rejoin using the original invitation
- You do not need to create a Zoom account to participate in a Zoom meeting

Thanks to Paul Downs of MCR Division 8 for these tips.

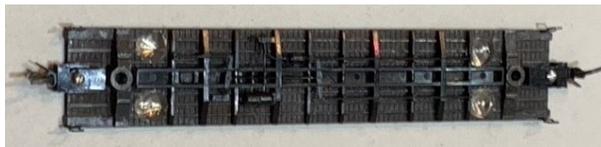
FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

As things start to return to normal and the pandemic eases we are getting closer to our June meeting. I, much like the rest of the membership, am hoping that we will be able to get back together in June. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and seeing the models you have been working on in person. Much of my modeling over the last month hasn't been so much on building models as much as it has been of modifying my N Scale rolling stock.

I have always heard that metal wheels and body mounting the couplers makes your trains run better. It's not that I didn't believe it but after joining the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association a few years ago, it became apparent that it was probably the same way in N Scale. As new N Scale models are produced with metal wheels and body mount couplers from the factory, it becomes even more obvious that if you want the very best performance you will need to modify your rolling stock. This is easier said than done in N Scale. Not only is it not just a simple changing of parts, it could be a financial burden as you will not only have to buy couplers but you'll have to buy metal wheels.

Most N Scale freight cars sit much higher than they should. There is typically a gap between the truck mounted coupler box and the frame of the car. You will need to lower the car to get the coupler to sit at the proper height. Once you start lowering the car, the wheels hit the under frame in many cases. One example of this are the Micro Trains gondolas. While these are not a horribly hard conversion, you will need to body mount a Micro Trains 1025 type coupler. Once that is done you will need to file the bolster down a little or swap to a BLMA truck which has a lower profile than the Micro Trains trucks. Either way the wheels will still hit the frame. A easy solution is to drill



Frame is ready to go back in the car body. It now has body mounted couplers and has been lowered to a more prototypical height.



While it may not seem like it is getting lowered by a lot, judging by the height of the break wheels you can see that lowering the car does a lot for the appearance.

holes in the frame to allow clearance for the wheels.

On the other hand, the newer Atlas single and double sheathed boxcars are an easy conversion. Just cut the couplers off of the factory trucks and tap the predrilled how so that you can mount a Micro Trains 1015 coupler. These boxcars make a very easy conversion. I had already assembled enough couplers for all of my Atlas wood sheathed boxcars which made the conversion rather quick. I think it took all of an hour to convert a dozen boxcars.

I have been talking to Micro Trains and am putting in a bulk order for coupler parts to do much of my collection. While some conversions can be a challenge and time consuming, most cars can be converted with some amount of determination. One major factor that must be considered is that the conversion changes the minimum radius that the cars can over which the cars can operate. My solution is to keep a T-TRAK module handy to test the cars on. T-TRAK is the smallest radius that I will be running on so if it runs on there I'll be able to run it anywhere that I run.

I am looking forward to getting to run on the Hinton Rail Museums N Scale layout this fall once COVID allows things to go back to normal. When I run on their layout each year, I normally run trains that are between 75 and

Continued on page 8

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The April clinic was presented by James Knabb of Frisco, Texas. His clinic was on how modelers of the future will design a layout and incorporate technology into their modeling efforts. His clinic gave a very different perspective to what many modelers think of the future of model railroading and was very well executed.

The May clinic will be given by Robert Osburn on Installing Interiors in DPM kits. Jerry Doyle will giving the June clinic. The topic has yet to be determined.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

**Virtual Meeting
Using Zoom
April 10 2021
Minutes**

Members caught up on their modeling projects and tactics for finding lost parts that have headed for the floor. We had a guest, James Knabb, from Frisco, Texas.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Robert Osburn at 1:00 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

March minutes approved.
Treasury Balance is \$8,430.35.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$0.
Pike Ads \$0.

Jerry Doyle updated everyone on the national election results released April 9. He reminded everyone that making sure NMRA National has a current email and making sure their emails aren't going to their spam folder ensures timely updates.

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn thanked everyone for attending today. We are hoping to possibly begin in-person meetings in June. Several members are working on ways we can continue using Zoom at these meetings as well.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter mentioned attending an online RPM (Rail Prototype Modeler) meet. He showed an N Scale resin Illinois Central boxcar kit that was offered as a premium at the meeting. He also mentioned the planned merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern.

Clinic – James Knabb

The Next Generation in Model Railroading

The presentation prompted discussion on how to engage with younger modelers.

(There was a short break before continuing the meeting.)

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer was conducting a NMRA region president's meeting today.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer was conducting a NMRA region president's meeting today.

Library

Bill Wadsworth nothing new to report. He noted that there is a lot of good content available on the NMRA website www.nmra.org.

Contest

Dale Osburn today's contest is Anything Kitbashed. There were four entries today.

Clinic

There was some more discussion about James Knabb's clinic and bringing in younger members. The advantages of having a running layout available for members to run their equipment was discussed. Robert Osburn will be doing the May clinic, an overview of Woodland Scenics structures and building and detailing them.

Membership

John Harris noted there was no change in membership since last month. He plans to begin reaching out to lapsed members to learn what can be done to serve them better. Tom Harris suggested we find ways to make our meetings more appealing to younger people and current members as well. Robert Osburn discussed several possible meeting options for the return to in-person meetings.

Raffle

No raffle today.

T-Track

Sam noted that T-TRAK is a viable way to have an operating layout for our meetings.

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bill Wadsworth inquired about how many members have received COVID vaccines and the impact that might have on future meetings. Jerry Doyle noted that any long-range plan for in-person meetings was preliminary at this point due to spikes in the infections rates that change in a matter of weeks.

Announcements

There is a Division 6 meeting planned for June 19 at Marion, Ohio.

Future Meetings:

May 8 – Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 3:00.
Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

In the month of April there were many well put together models for the contest which was Kit bashing/ Scratch Built (anything railroad related). This was a new monthly contest for 2021. We had participation in not only building quality models but responses in the Zoom voting.

The winners were:

- First place - Robert Osburn
- Second place - Larry Richards
- Third place - a tie between Bob Weinheimer and Sam Delauter.

Below you will find details of some great modeling efforts.

May will be anything steel related (sorry, no road trip this year) but we sure hope to see our fellow modelers from the Parkersburg area. As we all know, both members have outstanding layouts with thousands of hours spent building their layouts.

The June contest will be Non-Revenue. History shows not a lot of entries; so maybe this year we can give some thoughts and ideas to this contest.

As a reminder, all information for the contest should be submitted to Robert Osburn 24 hours before the scheduled meeting in May.

2021	Monthly Model Contest
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotive Other Than Steam
April	Kitbashing/Scratch Built (Anything Railroad Related)
May	Anything Steel Related
June	Non Revenue
July	Structures
August	Electronics of a Railroad
September	Photo, Model or Prototype
October	Open Loads
November	Passenger Cars
December	Fifth Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge



Robert Osburn

- Modified DPM kit, removed one floor to make building not as tall.
- Angled front wall to match curvature in road.
- Changed building from one business into three (Bank, Hotel, and Tavern).
- Three color paint scheme, sprayed with Vallejo acrylic paint.
- Built interiors for the Bank, Hotel, and Tavern. Each of these areas is lit with LEDs.
- Added 3 additional lit rooms for 2nd and 3rd floors.





Larry Richards

- Cardstock building covered with board by board sheeting.
- Made 3 stains from alcohol/acrylic paint for finish.
- Over 500 pieces of individual boards.
- Sign scratch built.
- Junk box windows and doors except sliding door by dock which is board by board.
- Tanks also built board by board.



Sam Delauter: Interstate Railroad Foundry

While I don't know much about the history of the structure, I do know that it stood in the Interstate Railroad's Andover Yard. For that matter, I don't think that I have seen a picture of the Andover yard that didn't have the foundry in it. There are no blueprints or diagrams that I know of so to get the measurements of the building I based its size off of the two bay hoppers that populated the yard. The structure was built using several types of sheet styrene. The challenge was to get the many different heights of the various sections of the building correct. The windows and doors are made from Tichy parts. The large windows on the front and back of the building were modified Tichy parts. The roof details were from modified Walthers parts and the stairs were from a Walthers mine kit.



Bob Weinheimer SOU 7975

I started with two Walthers three bay covered hoppers. SOU 7975 was built by kit bashing these two cars into a Big John Southern Railway car following an article by Jim Six in one of the magazines many years ago.

Continued from page 4 100 cars. One of the biggest issues with running large trains on the layout is uncoupling.

While one could encounter issues with weight or plastic wheels being a culprit, I think the biggest issue is with the Accurail Accumate couplers. While the coupler itself is molded in two pieces in a similar fashion, I think that the way that the coupler box holds the coupler together is a major factor in its reliability in very large trains. There is vertical play in the box itself on truck mounted Accumate couplers. In almost all instances of uncouplings, the car

farthest back of the two is Accumate equipped.

Once I body mount the couplers on my N Scale rolling stock, I expect it will not only give me more reliability but it will also give me a more realistic set of rolling stock. Not only will it require lowering my rolling stock, it also will shorten the distance between each car to a more prototypical distance. I guess the ultimate test will be when I get to run at Hinton again.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

It looks like I missed another great Zoom gathering in April but I had another obligation to deal with. I think I'm good for the next few months.

I certainly hope that circumstances permit us to start to meet in person again. Of course, Jerry Doyle is actively exploring ways to add a virtual element for those who, for whatever reason, cannot join us in person. Indeed, this is a challenge facing many Divisions in our Region and around the NMRA. Several folks from our Region will be working on this via a Zoom call, they will be sharing their ideas. One challenge may be the availability of internet access. I will be looking at the concept of making a Wi-Fi hotspot with my phone, a computer could then link to that for at least part of the virtual process. If we have an in person event, please plan on wearing a mask per CDC guidelines even if you are fully vaccinated. It may be that some members not yet fully vaccinated may be present and we need to be sure we don't give them anything unwanted.

At the Region level, there will be a Zoom Board of Directors meeting at 8 PM May 21. This will be followed by the MCR Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting we will announce the winners of the Directors and Wenderfer Awards. We will also change officers. A link for the

meeting will be sent out in the near future.

While the in person National convention in Santa Clara was canceled, the organizers are planning a virtual replacement. With a group from Silicon Valley, one would expect a superb technical experience and it appears that may be the case. For example, one of the issues with some of the virtual events has been clinics plagued by a poor internet connection. To avoid that, the clinics will all be recorded by the presenter (yes, that can be done with PowerPoint) and submitted. The recording will be played at the designated time and should be a much better technical experience. There will also be an opportunity to chat with the clinician via Zoom. For more on this virtual event, click [here](#).

While we look at meeting in person, the time appears to be at hand to start operating sessions again on my Pennsylvania Southern. I'm going to open the May session to fully vaccinated operators, I hope my regulars fall into that category. With a small number keeping somewhat apart we should be good. I have run through the schedule twice and have fixed most if not all of the problems I have encountered. The crew will see a heavily revised schedule of trains as well as a number of improvements to the railroad.

SPAM BUTTON MISUSE

It has come to the attention of the NMRA's IT department that many NMRA members do not receive NMRA email publications (*Turntable, eBulletin, Dispatch*) because **other** members use the Spam button.

If the publication is not of interest, simply delete it. If you no longer want to receive **any** NMRA email publication, please use the Unsubscribe link which is safe and secure. Never use the Spam or Junk button. If too many people do this, service providers such as Yahoo will block all people from ever seeing the emails. Most NMRA members want to keep in touch. Don't ruin it for them.

Please note that Unsubscribe will apply to all NMRA email publications, including the Turntable, eBulletin, special eBulletins, and Dispatch. Note that it does *not* apply to Up The Holler.



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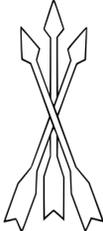
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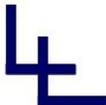


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Allegheny & New River Road
 An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's

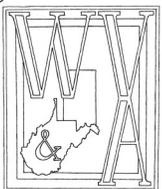


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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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 12
In Person or Virtual?

July 10
In Person or Virtual?

August 14
In Person or Virtual?