



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

September 2021

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

The August meeting featured our *Picnic on the Platform*. Some changes for this event were in order because of the surge of COVID-19 issues but I think everyone who attended felt safe. The turnout was great and it sure was rewarding to see everyone enjoying the food and sharing family and modeling stories. I think we all needed that time together again! Members really stepped up and helped with everything: tables and chairs appeared like magic, cooking and food serving was fantastic, and cleanup and takedown went like clockwork! I would like to thank everyone who pitched in and helped to make this an enjoyable outing.

This year a wooden trestle bridge kit is being developed for the 2021 Gary Burdette Challenge. We are offering 12 HO and 6 N Scale kits for this year's project. The prototype for the bridge was displayed for members to see at the picnic and sign-up for available kits to be delivered in October was frantic, only 3 HO and 2 N Scale packets are still available. If you would like to participate this year, please let Dale Osburn know so he can add your name to the list. All we ask is for you to complete the project and display or submit pictures for the December meeting.

The September meeting will find us at Mark Maynard's running the Crusty and having a barbecue lunch. This will be a joint meeting with Division 6 and Mark is excited about being able to host us again. Meeting details and directions to Mark's home will be posted within this newsletter, so be ready to run trains and have a great meal September 11th. I hope to see you there.

We are in a wait and see mode concerning the status for the October meeting. With the surge of COVID-19, the safety of our members is a major concern. Will we be meeting virtually once again or will it be possible to meet in-person as we have for the last few months? Hopefully, it will be in-person but we will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions based on CDC guidelines as changes dictate.

In closing, I again want to thank those who attended the August meeting and for all your help. Keep those trains on the track, keep you and your family safe, and remember there is light at the end of the tunnel.

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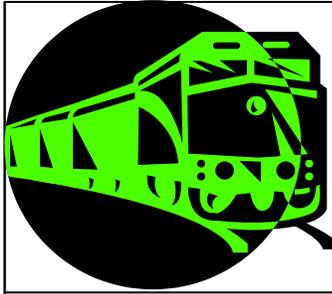
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday September 11

**Mark Maynard's Home
West Portsmouth, OH**

(see page 3 for details and directions)

- **8:00 AM:** Layout opens if yo wish to run trains on the Crusty.
- **11:00 AM:** Things really get rolling. Visit the layout, set out items to see, and socialize
- **12:30 PM:** Lunch
- **1:00 PM:** Social time, Coal Division contest is photographs
- **2:00 PM:** Superintendent's Briefing
- **2:40 PM:** Contest results
- **3:00 PM:** Continue running trains and socializing

**Next Meeting
October 9
In Person? Zoom?**

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

In place of the August meeting we had the Picnic on the Platform. Many thanks go out to the Coal Division members who helped to make the event a success. I would like to mention Superintendent Robert Osburn in particular. He spent a lot of time and effort both to make the event a success and also to take every precaution that he could to keep the membership safe. Although we haven't seen the rise in cases that other parts of the world have, Robert worked very hard to make the event happen with the potential rise of the COVID Delta variant.

Over the last month, I haven't spent a lot of time modeling. I did spend some time rearranging and cleaning the train room. Since I don't have a layout that wraps around the walls, I was able to move the layout to the

middle of the room. Not only does this give me access to both sides of the layout, it keeps the dogs farther away from the layout. The dogs like to look out the window in the train room. They are both large German Shepherds and were trying to squeeze into a small space.

Since I was rearranging and cleaning the room, I figured it was a good opportunity to not only to clean up and organize all of the small parts that I have laying around. They are all now in small parts bags and are labeled with what they go to. Now the big project is figuring out how to organize them so that I can easily find them when I need them.

And as always: Be kind to yourself and even better to others.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

There was no clinic at the August meeting. I guess you could say that lunch was the clinic however we did see a couple of CSX trains that were of interest to the membership. It looks like we have the schedule of clinics complete for the rest of 2021, that means it is now time to start looking at the clinics for 2022. I am open to any and all feedback for the 2022 clinics. Please don't hesitate to

let me know what clinics you would like to see in 2022.

September	Run the Crusty
October	Open Loads - Bob Frankrone
November	JMRI - Greg McCarty
December	Square foot challenge

SEPTEMBER EVENT

RUNNING THE CRUSTY ROAD

Our September will not be a joint event with Division 6 as in past years but we have extended an invitation for their members to attend. As he has for the past several years, Mark Maynard has graciously agreed to host us and to provide lunch and beverages.

A big part of the day is the flea market sale. Bring any of those things you thought you couldn't live without but now realize you don't need. In particular, consider items that you might think too valuable for the raffle. Make sure your name is on it or the packaging, set a price, perhaps do some haggling, and be rid of it. We hope to have somebody to handle the money and bookkeeping but if you make a sale privately, please don't forget to pay the 10% fee due from the seller.

The contest will be photographs so bring those pictures of trains or other railroad subjects, prototype or model, black and white or color.

While those who wish to operate the Crusty are wel-

come at 8:00 AM, the other parts of the event start around 11AM. Lunch will be available around 12:30. The business session will start at 2. While Portsmouth is a long distance for most of us to travel, car pooling can reduce costs and provide lots of good discussions en-route. All we need is a nice day.

Now, for some directions: If you are coming from anywhere but the west, find your way to Portsmouth, OH and leave town headed west on US 52. Look for Brouses Run Road about one half mile after the road narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Turn right onto Brouses Run Road then turn right into the first barn lot. In the past we have used Mark's house as a landmark but now you should turn at the Dollar General store. The model railroad is upstairs in the barn, the other activities will be out behind the barn under the canopies. If you want to use GPS, the house number is 42.

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The Division did not have a contest for the month of August due to having the picnic; but it was great to eat well and see many old friends. A big "Thank You" to Robert Osburn for his many hours putting this event together.

The September contest will be at Mark Maynard's house. The contest will be Photo, Model or Prototype. Please remember that when entering the September contest, you will need to send a copy of the Photo/entry to Bob Weinheimer for the newsletter. Also, a short description on a index card would be helpful.

Looking ahead to October, the contest will be Open Loads. This contest always has many outstanding models and we look forward to seeing the entries for the month of October.

Robert unveiled the kit for the Fifth Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge at the picnic. As he notes in his column, the kit is a wood trestle and is available in N Scale and HO Scale. A photo of both kits is on page. XX.

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

DEPOT UPDATE

Jerry Doyle

At our August 14 picnic we had a visit from Frank McCormick, President of the St Albans Chamber of Commerce. For many years the Chamber has been an active supporter of the depot including organizing the repainting in 2018. I was able to walk through the depot and bring Frank up to speed on the normal activities over recent years. Unbeknownst to us, a local resident noticed the open door and notified the city who dispatched the police to investigate. I'm not sure who was more surprised, the two officers, or Frank and me when they showed up. We apprised them of what we were up to, and they left us to continue. Not long after their departure Scott James,

Mayor of St Albans, arrived to check on the depot. It was an odd coincidence that allowed us to chat after a long period of pandemic-induced isolation. The Chamber is taking the lead on the development of the Fourth Avenue area as a historic district. There are currently plans for concerts and other activities to be held over the next few months. I spoke with Frank at some length about future plans for the depot and the resources that will be required. It's a monumental task for sure. To be successful, it will take the efforts of many groups, the Coal Division among them.

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

October	September 27
November	November 1
December	November 29
January	December 27

PICNIC PHOTOS

Photos by Herb Parsons



Editor's comments: As you can see, we had a great turnout and the weather was even cooperative. While it was warm and muggy, the rain stayed away. CSX even provided a couple of trains for entertainment. I know I ate so much that I didn't need much of a supper that evening.

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

Thanks to Tom Harris for sending me some great photos of his marvelous Lakeside Lines. The shots he selected capture the essence of model railroading and how we can create realistic images of our railroad to give the illusion of the real thing. They demonstrate not only his modelling skills, but also his photography skills, and eye for composition. It is still not too late to be included. Photos need not be of a completed layout. They can be a scene or small portion of a layout or even photos of a diorama. The trick is to eliminate background or edge clutter by tightly cropping the scene. Blue sky can make a great background, so consider taking the shot outside if photographing a diorama. Several of you have created some great scenes in the "square foot challenge". Consider including them but get them to me soon as I will need to go to printer not later than November 1st.

Membership numbers remain at 46 as of the end of August. I really hope we can use the Huntington Show to stir interest in NMRA or at least plant a few seeds. What we are really about is the enjoyment of model railroading. That enjoyment can come from the joy of model building. That can be models of locomotives or rolling stock, or models of buildings, or even a complete scene. The draw may be simply running or watching trains that others have built. Even that can mean different things to different

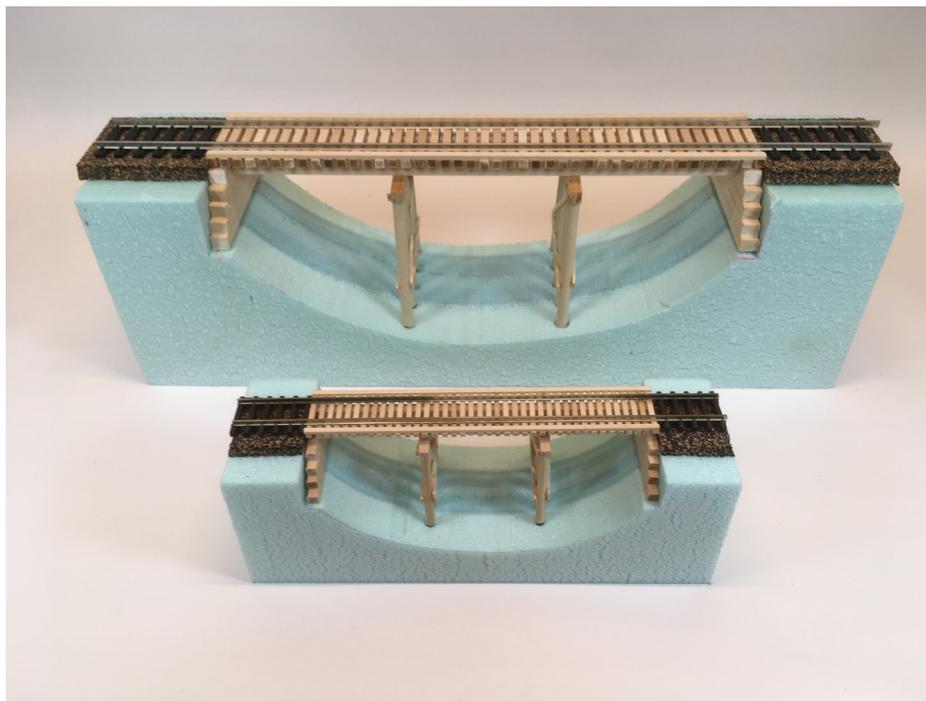
people. While passively watching trains might be enough for some, others may be only satisfied by being part of a prototypical operating session with train orders, waybills, and tons of switching. The point is there is room for everybody in the hobby. We just need to plant the seeds or at least fertilize those that might have already been planted. After all, there must be some interest in trains of they would not have come to the show in the first place.

Promoting T-TRAK is a great way to show some of this diversity. Allowing visitors to run trains will be a first for us and perhaps it may be a first for some of them. Another opportunity to show off modeling skill creates potential interaction with the public. Engaging visitors in conversation about how something was created always opens the door for further discussion about membership. Hopefully there will be opportunities for some "how to clinics". Be thinking about what you might do to be a presenter. Possible topics might be scenery, weathering, scratch building or even kitbashing. For some, seeing someone building a simple craftsman kit might be the inspiration for them to get into the hobby. I'm sure there are those out there that just need a nudge.

Keep modeling and be safe. I hope to see you at the meeting!

FIFTH ANNUAL GARY BURDETTE MEMORIAL MODELING CHALLENGE

As noted in his column, Robert Osburn has prepared a number of kits for this year's challenge. They are available in N and HO scales. See Dale Osburn if you have not already requested a kit. Robert sent the photo of the two kits all built.



MY WORD
Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Well, I don't get much space this month. As noted by others, the picnic was great and a nice change of pace for a gathering.

I realize it is hard to be thinking about next spring's Indy Junction 2022 convention but it will be here before you know what happened. It should be bigger and better than the usual Region convention as there are three Regions involved. I'm hoping COVID will be well behind us by then as well. The ad below has the dates and a couple of links that won't work as it's pasted in picture. To learn more, and to register before the price goes up, go to www.indyjunction2022.org.

The convention needs clinics and, if you present two clinics, your registration will be refunded after the convention. Let me know if you have one or more clinics to offer and I'll see what I can do about getting them onto the program.

In the near future, I am planning to attend the Mid Eastern Region convention in late October. I expect to be masked up for the duration if it doesn't get canceled.

Whatever you do, please be careful of yourself and others as this pandemic continues. If you've had your vaccinations, be looking at the booster.

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster with a black border. At the top is a blue horizontal bar with the text "May 18-22, 2022" in white. Below this is a large blue downward-pointing arrow with a striped pattern. In the center, the words "Indy Junction" are written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below that, the year "2022" is written in a similar font. To the left of "2022" is a red arrow pointing right, and to the right is a green arrow pointing left, both with striped patterns. Below "2022" are the abbreviations "MWR NCR MCR" and "RPM Conference" in a smaller black font. At the bottom, there are two horizontal bars: a red one with the text "facebook.com/IndyJunction2022" in white, and a green one with the text "www.IndyJunction2022.org" in white.

May 18-22, 2022

Indy Junction

2022

MWR NCR MCR
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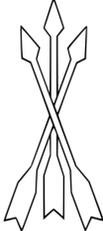
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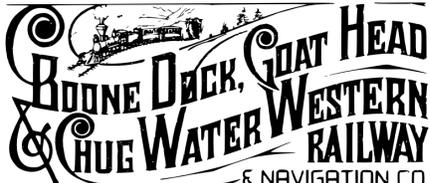
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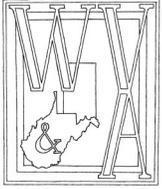


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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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September 11
Portsmouth, OH

October 9
St. Albans Historical Society and Zoom?

November 13
St. Albans Historical Society and Zoom?