



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

February 2022

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER
Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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What a great way to start 2022! The January meeting at St. Albans saw good attendance both in-person and virtually. We were especially pleased to have NMRA President Gordy Robinson join us from his home in Scotland for part of the meeting. Yes we are still victims of the COVID-19 virus but we are starting to have a more normal existence. It was expected there would be a slight decrease in attendance for this meeting because of the foul weather and COVID-19 concerns but many members still participated either in-person or virtually. As we constantly improve the virtual production of the meeting, more and more members find this is a way they can still participate in the monthly meeting regardless of bad weather, location, or health concerns.

We shared a typical meeting agenda; trying to keep the business session short and moving on to the things we really look forward to: the contest, clinic, raffle, and being together. I really enjoyed Jerry Doyle's clinic showing the progress he has made on his layout. What really impressed me most was all the thought he had put into his project, especially how he has planned businesses and industries to accept several types of rail traffic which will enhance operations. This really got me thinking and as soon as I returned home I was planning how I could apply his ideas into the unfinished areas of my attic railroad. Thanks Jerry, we all enjoyed your clinic.

We will be conducting a hybrid type of February meeting again at the St. Albans Historical Society building. I know there is a lot of concern over the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 and we really need to be diligent, smart, and safe with our in-person portion of the meeting. Yes, I believe most of our members are vaccinated but we should still look out after each other. It is recommended that members who attend in-person wear a mask and try to social distance as much as possible. We intend to spread out the seating, not pass around the attendance list, and have the agenda already in each seat for members. Hand sanitizer, spray sanitizer in the bathroom, and extra masks will be available. Please do your part and keep yourself and others safe.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for attending the January meeting. We still have a lot of unanswered questions about how virus concerns will affect us in the future—all we can do now is to act respectfully, understand other's concerns, and practice procedures to keep us and our family safe. Hope you can attend the February 12th meeting either in-person or virtually!!

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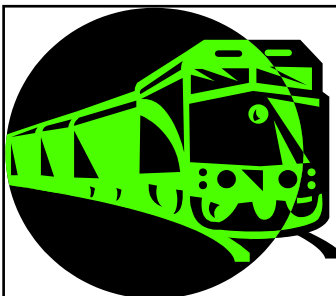
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

**TO LIMIT COVID OMICRON
SPREAD THE USE OF FACE MASKS
IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**

**Saturday February 12, 2022
1 PM**

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
- Contest: Steam Locomotives
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Clinic: Bob Weinheimer "NMRA Exhibit in Sacramento"

Next Event

Saturday March 12

Location to be determined

JANUARY **HYBRID** DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jerry Doyle

We've all been doing our part for COVID-19 isolation measures. The end, however, is in sight and our February meeting will be in person as well as via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

Our February meeting will be held at the St. Albans Historical Society (next door to the depot) in person and remotely using Zoom. Zoom 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 February 12 at our regular time of 1 p.m.

Please bear with us as we learn our way around producing a hybrid meeting.

NMRA MCR Division 9 February 12 Meeting

Topic: NMRA MCR Division 9 February Meeting

Time: Feb 12, 2022 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87839036667>

Meeting ID: 878 3903 6667

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

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

I guess I am a little late with this but in 2022 I plan to make an effort not only to finish as many projects that had been previously started but also to try and get rid of all the clutter. Earlier this month I started to go through all of my HO rolling stock and locos. Although I try to keep a running inventory in HO and N scales, I do tend to get behind from time to time. Since I was way behind with my HO inventory, it was time to put the work in and see what I actually had. Not only does this give me the chance to see what all I have it, also gives me the chance to see what repairs need made and to see if I still need everything I have.

After I had completed my HO inventory, I started go through all of my other stuff. We all have this, it's all the stuff that we have accumulated. It could be that box of

parts, or structures, or rolling stock, or kits, or just about anything that we picked up with intentions to use. I'm sure that I'm not the only one but it's time for me to start going through all of my other stuff. Over the last few years my modeling interests have changed and I don't need some of that stuff anymore.

For those who go through their collection and find stuff that they may not need, a good option to find a new home for that stuff would be the company store. While we haven't had much for sale lately at the company store, you may find that someone in the Division may be interested in what you have. While you will pay a small fee to the Division if your item sells, this helps both you and the Division. The new found space and funds resulting from the sale will help fund new projects.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The January 2022 clinic was by Jerry Doyle. Jerry updated us on his progress on his Crescent Valley RR. As always, Jerry gives us a different perspective on modeling and layout design. The February clinic will be by Bob Weinheimer on his trip this past summer. He will show us around the Magic of Model Railroad exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum.

Looking ahead, Mark Maynard will be giving his car clinic in April. Mark has this to say about the April clinic: *To my fellow model railroaders from the master mechanic of the Crusty Mountain and Wiloby Springs Railroad. In April, I*

will be reprising my car repair clinic, but this year there will be a twist. I'm sending out this challenge to anyone who has a "problem child" car that just does not want to run right on their layout. Bring it with you to the meeting and we'll see if we can figure out the problem. This way, it will be a more of a "hands on" clinic, being able to see some of the tricks in practical use. So, get those cars off the shop desk, or out of the drawer, and bring them in to the "urgent care" for train cars.

After April, we don't have any clinics scheduled. Be thinking ahead for other clinics as we do need to schedule these for the upcoming meetings.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

It was a real pleasure to have Gordy Robinson stop in for our January meeting. Later that afternoon he visited Division 10 over in Lexington. He has made a point to visit as many Divisions as possible thanks to virtual and hybrid meetings. His January 15 visit to Division 8 was recorded and posted on YouTube, click [here](#) to watch. Gordy's portion starts about three minutes into the video, I encourage you to watch it as he discusses the upcoming digital version of the *NMRA Magazine* among other things.

If you watch the entire 30 minutes of that video, you will see how another Division in the Mid Central Region handles its hybrid meeting. It is well done but I should note that Fred, the Superintendent, was an information technology expert in his day job. I half jokingly suggested that our Superintendent Robert Osburn and our Clerk

Jerry Doyle make a trip to Louisville to see how they do it. I don't mean to suggest we do a poor job, just that there is always room for improvement.

In the clinic column above, Mark Maynard offers to fix those troublesome cars as the April clinic. I have one for his healing powers. It's an ancient Athearn heavy duty flat car with four two axle trucks. It likes to derail enough that I took it off the railroad. I just put it back on and it derailed again. Switches or straight track are no challenge for this car, it does it anywhere.

On page 7, Mark also gives us an update on his layout. On the following page Herb Parsons describes a new T-TRAK module that he has built. It has lots of structures and scenery, zoom in on the photos and check them out. If you have something to share, send it in.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
St Albans Historical Society

January 8 2022
 Minutes

Members introduced themselves, several members were attending virtually. We had one virtual guest, NMRA President Gordy Robinson.

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

Division Clerk Report

November minutes approved (there was no December business meeting).

Treasury Balance is \$8,486.35.

Company Store \$0.

Raffle \$24.

Pike Ads \$20.

Superintendent Report Robert Osburn thanked everyone for braving the weather to attend today. He is working on a few fund-raising ideas in case we decide to host another convention.

Assistant Superintendent Report Sam Delauter discussed our December Christmas meeting, he received a lot of positive feedback.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer thanked everyone for getting their contributions in on time. It really makes his job much easier. The address for contributions is editor@coaldivision.org

Achievement Program

Nothing new to report.

Library

Bill Wadsworth reported on the content available in the members-only section at nmra.org.

Clinic

Today's clinic is a presentation by Jerry Doyle on the construction progress on the Crescent Valley.

February will be Bob Weinheimer's road trip out west.

Sam wants to have several mini clinics at a future meeting. Mark Maynard will be doing a clinic in April on making any rolling stock operate reliably.

Contest

Dale Osburn was sick today, so Sam filled in to run the contest. The theme was Modeler's Choice.

Membership

We have a new member from South Charleston, WV. We will be reaching out to him for the February meeting.

There was discussion about using T-TRAK as a way to increase interest. Robert Osburn suggested providing an introductory packet and name tag for new members. Jerry Doyle suggested welcoming them to a lunch before the monthly meeting. We will discuss this further at the February meeting.

Raffle

Tom Harris stayed home due to snow. Sam Delauter handled filled in today.

Education

No report.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

Bill Wadsworth has been soliciting nominations for officers as chair of the nominations committee. He reported that he received no feedback from his item in *Up The Holler*. The current officers have agreed to serve another term. There were no nominations from the floor. Bob Weinheimer moved that nominations be closed, the motion was seconded, and passed. Bob Weinheimer moved that with no other nominees, the candidates be elected by acclamation, the motion was seconded, and passed.

Robert Osburn brought up the topic of a board of directors. It is supposed to be composed of the past presidents along with the current officers. Bob Weinheimer pointed out that this isn't possible for Division 9 as most of the former Superintendents have passed.

Robert Osburn brought up the possibility of meeting for March at the Charleston RR show (formerly the St Albans show). There was discussion about our participation at the show in some form as well.

Announcements

Jerry Doyle announced that the SACOMM layout is open today, the theme is 1953.

Bob Weinheimer updated everyone on the upcoming dues increase and transition to the digital version of *NMRA Magazine*. He pointed out that you must be able to log in to the member's only section of the NMRA website to access the new online magazine.

Future Meetings:

February 12 – St Albans Historical Society

Meeting adjourned at 1:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The January contest, Modeler's Choice, had several entries. Sam Delauter brought a heavily detailed caboose that took first place. Mark Maynard brought a number of cars with varying levels of work but his caboose equipped with LED flashers was popular. He also brought a brush cutter mounted on a flat car. Bob Weinheimer brought some scrap loads he had built based on a recent article in *NMRA Magazine*. Mark and Bob tied for second. Robert Osburn brought a grade crossing with working gates.

The contest for February will be Steam Locomotives. Looking ahead to March, the contest will be Locomotive other than Steam.

Thank you to Bob Weinheimer for taking over my



Sam Delauter's caboose



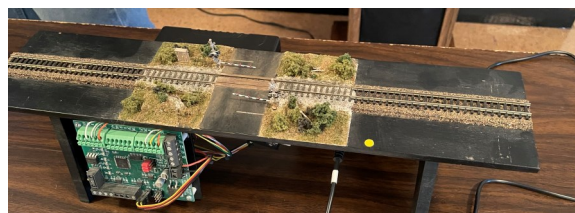
Mark Maynard's brush cutter and flat car

duties while I was under the weather last month.

2022	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



Bob Weinheimer's scrap load



Robert Osburn's grade crossing

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

I was looking ahead and felt the light at the end of the COVID tunnel was just around the corner. Now I am not sure if it isn't another freight train. Still, like so many of us, I am ready to do as much normal as possible. With that I am looking forward to the possibility of attending and yes, even participating in the March KVMRA Train Show. I expect that there will be plenty of discussion at the upcoming February Coal Division meeting on the 12th. As previously discussed, we again have been invited to participate and may plan to have the T-TRAK modules, along with our Coal Division display, and perhaps provide some brief, 10-15 minute clinics on "how to model railroad". This will need to be discussed further and I am sure Bob and Sam will have more information on the coal Divisions plans for the show.

Expecting that all is still on track, I will be bringing a sign-up sheet for volunteers interested in assisting with manning the Coal Division Display at our meeting. These sign in sheets will have specific time slots open during Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I will be taking at least one of the 2 hour sessions and I encourage each of you to consider picking a time that will work for you to be in-

volved. The goal is to spread the word on the benefits of joining our organization. I will have some additional promotional details and provide information about NMRA membership. Handouts will be limited as we have found over the years that handing out information to everyone is a waste as most end up in the trash. It is really the serious modeler we are looking to reach.

I expect to bring a model kit or project or two to work on as I man the booth. This will help pass the time and make the time sitting more productive, but more importantly, perhaps generate some questions and provide opportunities to talk more about the hobby. This should be an excellent opportunity to expand our outreach and potentially increase interest in model railroading. All this assuming we are still "on board"

Forgive me for all the railroad puns. I was just in that kind of mood. I am looking forward to perhaps seeing some of our newest members at the next meeting even if it is virtually. Regardless help me in welcoming Gary Hamm of South Charleston to our division

Meanwhile, keep modeling and be safe. I hope to see everyone at the next meeting

News From Atop The Mountain (Crusty Mountain, That is.)

Mark Maynard

I have been doing a caboose flasher program for about five weeks now, and I'm working on my thirteenth one. Each one takes several days due to having to wait for glue and paint to dry before final re-assembly.

As with any project, the first one is usually the hardest. Figuring out the easiest and most efficient way to do the job takes some time. Now, however, I'm getting quite proficient at it. Repetition has it's perks!

I'm using Miniaturics rear end flashers as my starting point. However, I found that the light emitting diode (LED) that they provide was not very bright. After a little search on the internet I found some nice bright ones. Even though the installation varies a bit depending on the style of caboose being outfitted, most of the steps are just repetition. For the trucks, I'm using Athearn's new caboose trucks that have power pickups built right in. Hookup is just as written in the instructions except that I put a small single pole single throw switch sticking through the floor of the cab so the flasher can be changed from one end to the other.

One other aspect of this project is adding weight to

each caboose. The added weight allows easy switching while shoving on a cab and makes it safer for rear end helper service. I'm also adding a small handbrake to one set of wheels on each cab. The reason for this is that on my layout, as many may know, I utilize Kadee magnets for uncoupling, this creates a slight problem with today's cars that roll so freely. It has caused many a caboose being left at the end of a track when it passed over a magnet during slack action. With the addition of the handbrake, it keeps the slack out and thus cures the errant uncoupling. I achieved the handbrake with a small piece phosphor bronze wire fitted into the truck to rub against one wheel-set. This works quite well and the cabs now stay put on the rear, as it should be.

Lastly, while in the shop, all cabs get any missing or broken parts replaced and, if warranted, get details added to make them reflect more of the prototype look.

Well, that's it for this episode of "On Top of Old Crusty" and if anyone should be interested, I could do a clinic on this at one of our meetings.

Fire Creek Module Herbert Parsons Photos by the Author

After I finished my first T-TRAK module, I started to plan my second. I wanted to build it with a depot but wanted something different than using the Blair Line C&O Standard depot kit. I had a copy of "Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Depot, Tower and Other Structures 1896 - 1950" by Tom Dixon. In the book are the photos and plans for the combination depot/tower that stood at Fire Creek, WV. When I saw the photo, I knew that was the depot I want.

Using the plans in the book that included all the dimensions, I drew them to N Scale on card stock. That allowed me to cut out the structure walls and roof and test fit before I made my first cut in polystyrene. While building the depot, I did some research on the town of Fire Creek. C&O Historical Society member Doug Andre had a copy of the book "Fire Creek: A New River Mining Community" that he sold to me. Fire Creek was established in 1877 and quit mining about 1946. The town was across the tracks from the C&O depot with the company store directly across from the depot, the company houses were just above the store on the hillside and there was a church.

for the Fire Creek Coal and Coke company store. I worked from one photo of the front of the store and a description from an employee of the coal company. I purchased the company houses from LASERKit. The church is a Blair Line laser kit that included stain glass windows, and the railroad company house and the 10-ton coal shed are both Blair Line.

I ordered a 14"x24" T-Trak module from CMR Products since I needed an extra 2 inches on the front to place the depot and C&O support buildings.

I used extruded foam to build up the hill side and used Woodland Scenics material for ground cover and their armatures for the trees in various heights.

The first viewing and operation of the completed module was at the AMRS train show Thanksgiving Weekend at Huntington, WV. with the layout using modules from Craig Laing, Mark Totten, and myself. During the show I noticed a lady and her grand daughters and she was telling them about the company store, the town and depot. One of the girls asked "how do you know so much about this" and the lady replied "I grew up in a town like this."



When I finished building the depot, I drew up plans





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One Convention
May 18-22, 2022



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www.IndyJunction2022.org



RPM
CONFERENCE



We've promised you Registration would be open soon. Well at long last, soon is NOW. Registration is OPEN. You can register for the Convention, and while you're on the website, make a room reservation.

GO HERE now - <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

If you've registered for a lot of conventions, you can probably wing it. But if you're a "manual reader", the Registration Committee has provided some great instructions. And we suggest you read through the instructions before you get started.

If you run into any problems, the Registrar is standing by to help you. He's a person so he'll get back to you within 24 hours. (Likely sooner if you make contact during daylight hours.) Here's the contact link if you need help registering - registration@indyjunction2022.org

As a reminder, the only way to register for **Indy Junction 2022** is online and through the website.

We shared the Convention fees before, but here they are again.

- **\$95.00 Registration** - January 1, 2022 to April 27, 2022
- **\$110.00 Late Registration** - April 28, 2022 to May 21, 2022
- **\$25.00 additional Family Member(s) Registration** - any date
- **\$40.00 Saturday May 21 ONLY**, Individual Registration (One-Day includes Train Show)

And while you're on the site, get a room reserved. We strongly suggest you use the link on the website to reserve your room. Marriott is experiencing some staffing problems for telephone support. They give you some outstanding help once you connect - but there can be some extended hold times to speak with someone on the phone. (We're not kidding - wait times can run from 10 to 30 minutes. Everyone in hospitality is experiencing labor shortages.)

Marriott East Indianapolis Room Rate
\$132.00 per night plus applicable taxes

One final registration tip - If you are accessing the Indy Junction 2022 webpage on your mobile device, phone or tablet, you'll need to click the menu icon on the top of the homepage to see all the pages.

Share this update with someone who hasn't yet signed up for updates on the Indy Junction 2022 website - <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

Indy Junction 2022 Marketing Committee

NMRA's Partnership Program



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in and click on the **Benefits** tab to view the **NMRA Partnership Program**. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

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*RailPass offer is for new members and those who haven't been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at RailPass rates only once. Membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. RailPass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office.



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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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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 dis-
tribution list for Up The
Holler.

February 12
In Person and Zoom

March 12
In Person and Zoom

April 9
In Person and Zoom

May 7
Steel is King
Parkesburg, WV