



# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

September 2022

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## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

1 Good food, great weather, and camaraderie were the features of our annual  
2 August *Picnic on the Platform*. This is always a special gathering for the Coal  
3 Division and we really enjoy the time spent together. Again this year we had a  
4 great turnout including several special guests and visitors. This type of outing  
5 gives us a wonderful time to share stories and just be able to sit around and talk.  
6 Everyone was as busy as bees setting up and cleaning up after the picnic and I  
7 would like to thank everyone for their help. It was really appreciated.

8 After the picnic we gathered in the Historical Society Building for a discus-  
9 sion on electronic/electrical railroad projects for our contest. After this discus-  
10 sion we enjoyed a very informative clinic presented by Dale Osburn on Making  
11 Your Own Ground Foam. From the amount of discussion and questions asked  
12 about the process it was evident everyone really enjoyed Dale's clinic. Thanks,  
13 Dale, for a great clinic.

14 During the picnic I was able to have a long discussion with Mark Totten,  
15 President of the C&O Historical Society. Mark was at the St. Albans Depot  
16 along with fellow C&OHS members Matt Crouch and Scott Cyrus. The  
17 C&OHS has reached an agreement with the City of St. Albans for their use of  
18 the Depot. The Society has great plans for using the depot as a satellite office  
19 for the C&OHS. Preliminary plans are for the waiting room to be used as a  
20 meeting area, the kitchen to become a retail sales and research room, and the  
21 freight room to be occupied by a museum and an O Scale layout with a local  
22 theme. The possibility of installing a rail-cam on the building is being discussed.  
23 The C&OHS hope the Depot will become a common meeting place for local rail  
24 fans and model railroad groups. Work is under way for cleaning and making  
25 necessary repairs to the building—maybe soon we can meet there once again!

26 The September meeting will find us at Mark Maynard's running the Crusty  
27 and having a barbecue lunch. This will not be a joint meeting with Division 6 as  
28 they have other activities scheduled. Mark is excited about being able to host us  
29 again and we always enjoy the Maynards' hospitality. Meeting details and direc-  
30 tions to Mark's home will be posted within this newsletter, so be ready to run  
31 trains and have a great meal September 17<sup>th</sup>. The contest will be photos and ta-  
32 bles will be set-up for train sales. Remember our outings are a great time to car  
33 pool and enjoy hearing lots of railroad stories. I hope to see you there!

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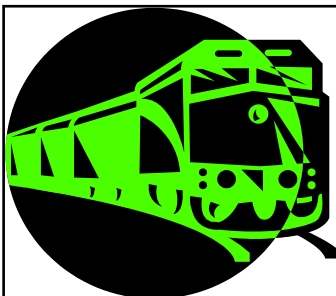
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## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

**Saturday September 17**

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

(see page 3 for details and directions)

- **8:00 AM:** Layout opens if you 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 8**

**In Person and Zoom**

## 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.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

While I have been building HO scale craftsman kits for quite a few years now, it's amazing that sometimes you can overlook something that was probably right there in front of you the whole time. In this case, I discovered Kadee 178 couplers a few months ago. When I was starting working in HO, I realized that I should standardize the brand and type of coupler that I would use. The obvious choice was the Kadee 5. I soon realized that I was starting out not owning much equipment and if I wanted to try to be as close to scale as I could, I should probably go with the Kadee 58. The 58 is the scale version of the 5. Keep in mind there are also the 148 and 158. These are the whisker version of the 5 and 58. Instead of having to add a spring in the coupler box, they have the whisker spring built into the coupler, hence being called whisker couplers.

To start out, I bought a few pairs of both the 58 and the 158. I quickly noticed that both of these couplers could sag in the coupler boxes. I decided to standardize my fleet by choosing the 58 over the 158 whisker. I found that it was easier to get the coupler level in the box with the 58. Opposite of the instructions, I put the spring in the bottom of the box. If there is any sag, I clip the spring wings off of an extra spring or two and use these to shim the coupler to get rid of vertical play. This has kept the couplers flush with the top of the box and given me reliable operation of my fleet.

A few months ago I was building a pair of Funaro and Camerlengo Canadian National reefers. Since I don't know a lot about Canadian railroading, I was doing some

research for the build. The author of one of the articles that I read mentioned that he was using Kadee 178 couplers in his build. I had never heard of the 178 so more research was needed. It turns out that the 178 is the scale head 158 whisker coupler in a different coupler box. With the exception of passenger equipment, I had standardized my fleet to use only scale head couplers so this was right up my alley. Soon after I went to West Virginia Hobby and Craft and ordered a couple of packs of 178 to play around with.

After receipt of the couplers, it turned out that these were the couplers that I had been missing the whole time. While they are the 158, it's the box that makes the difference. The boxes that come with the standard types (5, 58 and 148, 158) have some play and let your couplers sag. These 178 seem much better designed as they have next to no space for vertical play. These have recently become my go to couplers. While I am not shaving off molded on coupler boxes, I am using these in every instance that I can. While building kits, whether it's a plastic Intermountain kit or a resin kit, these take the timely process of leveling couplers out of the equation. To make things even easier, the boxes snap together and don't fall apart like the other boxes while being installed. If you spend the amount of time making sure all of your couplers are perfectly level that I do, I think these couplers would serve you well. Most recently when building several Intermountain and Red Caboose kits, the Kadee 5 and 58 were not even something that I considered putting on these kits.

## CLINICS

### Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

At the Picnic on the platform, Dale Osburn presented a clinic on making ground foam. While this can be a messy process, it is not hard and will save a good bit of money if you need a lot of ground foam. Dale gave a great clinic that was both informative and at some points even comedic. Dale's method involved using a blender to make the ground foam. While it often looked like he was making a cocktail for all of us, Dale made it known that we shouldn't drink what we were making.

There will be no clinic at the September meeting, we will be making a visit to Mark Maynard and the Crusty Mountain. Following that we will be having the Mini Clinic Events. It looks like we have enough clinicians for

the October event but will still need a couple for the November Mini Clinic Event. These are a great opportunity to speak on a topic that would not take an entire clinic and also learn a lot in a short time.

September	Crusty Mountain
October	Mini Clinics 1
November	Mini Clinics 2
December	Square Foot Challenge

## PASSENGER MANIFEST

### John Harris, Membership Chair

Back in February, after a 50 year long career, I announced on Facebook and to a few clients that it was my intention to retire from the practice of architecture. That milestone seemed an appropriate end to what has been an extremely rewarding chapter of my life. Still, I had a few projects I was in one stage or another of completion and I would be finishing those through construction completion. The goal was to free up time to allow me to expand our travel itinerary and, of course, to devote more time to my second passion, model railroading. (First passion being spending time with my lovely wife, you might ask.)

Since that time, I have been asked on numerous occasions, "how are you enjoying retirement?" The response quite simple, "it's not working out too well."

In truth, the projects I was committed to finishing have taken a bit longer than expected and two of those clients have expanded scope to include even more work. Some of the construction phase projects are taking longer due to material shortages and delivery delays. I am actually working just as hard as I ever have. But, there is light at the end of the tunnel and I am fairly sure it is not an oncoming train.

The good news is that work has managed to keep the cash flow coming and if nothing else has been bit of a hedge against inflation. The bad news is that the Allegheny & New River Road has set idle, collecting dust, or weathering if you prefer. Virtually no progress has been made since early in the pandemic. In fact, net progress is actually in the nega-

tive and I have ground to recover. Earlier this month one of the new cats we adopted back in December managed to get past the barricades leading into the train area downstairs and managed to take a tour thru the entire layout. In her path was considerable destruction, somewhat reminiscent of a Godzilla movie of the 50s & 60s. I found mass tree displacement, multiple trains derailed, live loads spilled onto right of way, signals toppled, and several buildings shifted from their foundations. I may have to rethink all those live coal loads I use.

In reality, it could have been a whole lot worse! In truth, nothing appears to be broken or permanently damaged and most of the work will be cleaning up the spilled coal and repositioning clumps of foliage. The buildings were loosely placed awaiting final ground cover and the few cars that left the track landed over an embankment into the river below. Thankfully, nothing ended up on the floor. For now, the cats still have a home. Additional counter-measures are in the works.

Surveying the damage, however, did get me thinking how much I miss working on the layout and just plain running trains. It also gave me time to reflect on just how much I need to do. So, it is time to get that "work thing" behind me so I can get back to completing the many projects I have started and those yet to start. I am expecting the winter months to find me back at it.

I hope to see you in Portsmouth. Meanwhile, keep modeling and be safe.



## CONTEST

### Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

. The August contest was Electronics of a Railroad.

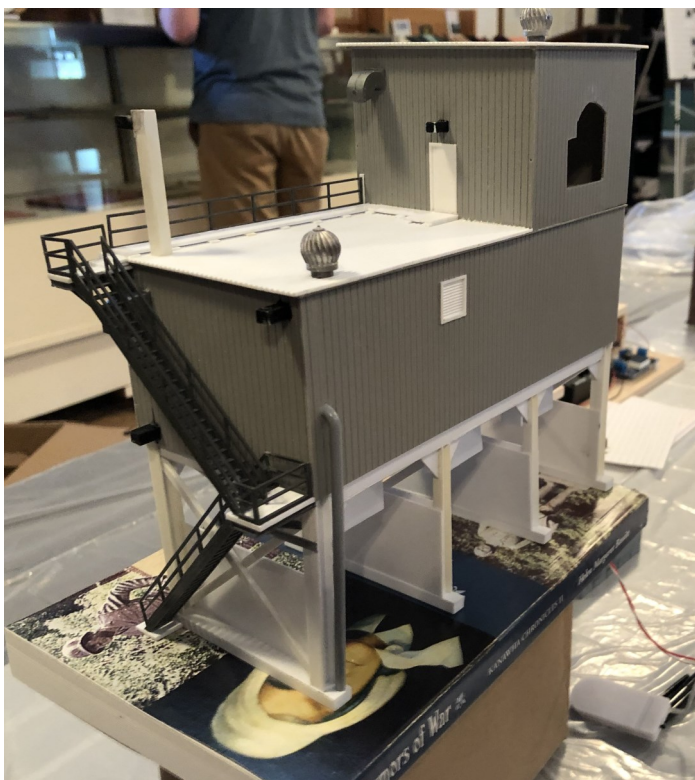
First Place  
Robert Osburn

Second Place  
Mark Maynard  
Rock Crusher Processor

For September, the contest will be Photo, Model or Prototype. **All pictures must be emailed to Bob Weinheimer ([editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)) to be included in the October newsletter.**

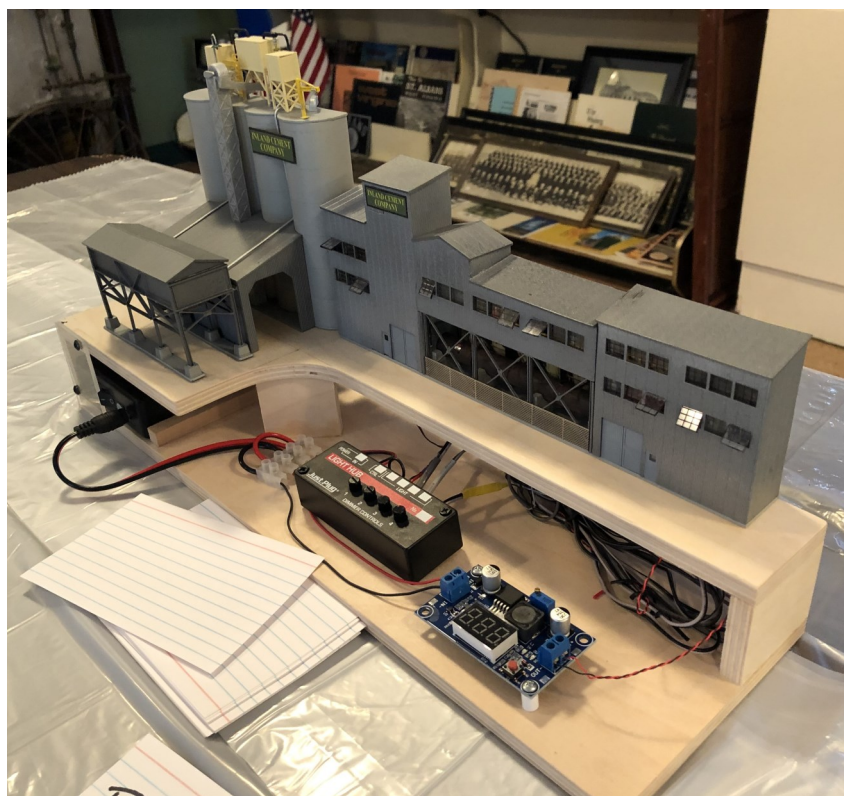
Lastly, a big thank you to Robert and Sam for making the cookout a success!

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



Rock Crusher Processor  
Mark Maynard

Mark scratch built the structure and used a new product for lighting called Fairy Lights. Mark has spent some 40 hours working on the project which he stated is not completely done.



Background Buildings by  
Bob Osburn

The two background buildings (Allstate Machine Parts and Island Cement Company) demonstrate different methods, products, and wiring techniques for adding lighting to structures with LEDs. The cement plant also has a rotation kiln powered by a miniature gear motor with a device to regulate the low (3.0 VDC) needed for the motor. This plant also has a scratch built street light using telescoping brass tubing and a pre-wired nano size LED.





## MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

While I missed the *Picnic on the Platform*, I was still having a good time at the National Train Show in St. Louis. This event was very well attended by the public as well as those who had attended the NMRA convention. Next year's convention will be in Grapevine, Texas between Dallas and Fort Worth.

Convention attendance was down from recent conventions but COVID, high fuel costs, and inflation probably kept some from St. Louis. There were still lots of clinics, layout tours, operating session, and other activities to keep attendees busy. The convention closed with a Saturday evening banquet featuring an after dinner talk by actor Michael Gross of TV and movie fame. I had the pleasure of sitting next to him during dinner and enjoyed a pleasant chat with an accomplished modeler who is a Santa Fe fan.

The banquet also included announcements of awards earned by members. Among these is the President's Award for Service to the Division. Each Region President submits the name of a member who best fits the description of the award. This year the Mid Central Region winner of this award is our superintendent, Robert Osburn. Congratulations to Robert for all the great work done to lead us through the pandemic and to prosper in spite of the pandemic.

I also want to take a moment to thank Jerry Doyle for serving as Mid Central Region Vice President. Much to Jerry's surprise, earlier this year he became what can only be described as Acting President when President Dave Neff was seriously ill. MCR Secretary, Fred Soward, worked with Jerry to make sure all duties were performed in a timely manner. Key among those was to execute the process for identifying the winners of the various MCR awards as well as the award described above. Thank you to Jerry and Fred. I'm pleased to report that Dave's health has improved and that he is back in charge.

Jerry Doyle and I have been doing a hard job lately. Past Coal Division Superintendent Dan Mulhearn's health has gotten to the point where he has moved to an assisted living facility in Pennsylvania. That means his model railroading assets had to be liquidated. Jerry and I brought back three van loads of cars, locomotives, structures, and various projects that were started but not finished. You can find

nearly all of this at West Virginia Hobby and Craft with some also at the Nitro store. Dan had enough equipment to model two eras, the late 1960s and around the year 2000. The items you may want that are now no longer produced or are no longer available might be there now. There will also be some items that will be made available for sale to Coal Division members. Come to the meetings to see what might be there.

It appears that Achievement Program activity is picking up again in the Coal Division. Bill Grosse has met the qualifications for Association Official by having served as superintendent of the New Jersey Division before moving to West Virginia. That paperwork was filed recently. Also, Patrick Miller is diligently filling out the paperwork for Chief Dispatcher. He served as Pennsylvania Southern dispatcher during the "op til you drop" session with the guys from Louisville a couple of weeks ago meaning he had met all the operating requirements. Congratulations to both!

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# Cincinnati Model Train & Trade Show

## 54<sup>th</sup> Annual



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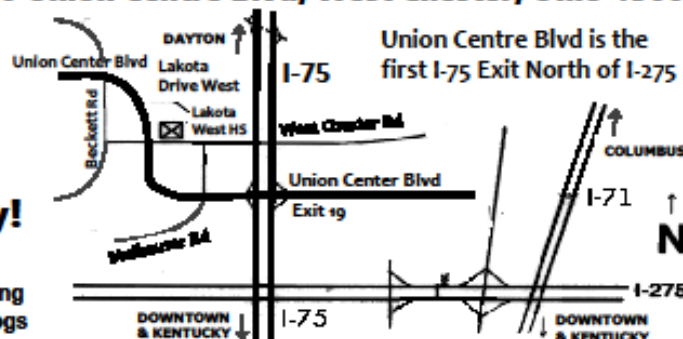
**Sat & Sun October 8 & 9, 2022**  
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This event will be operated under all local, state and federal health guidelines in effect during the show. If you're feeling ill or suspect you may have COVID 19 symptoms, you should not attend. Masks are highly recommended, but not mandatory, unless required by federal, state, or appropriate local civil health authorities. Hand sanitizer will be available at multiple locations. Subject to cancellation due to events beyond our control. See <https://cincy-div7.org/events.html> for last-minute info or changes.

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**Fourth Annual NMRA Division 6**

# **Train Show**

**Cambridge Ohio**

**Sunday**

**October 23, 2022**

**10 am to 4 pm**



*Easy Access from I-70 and I-77*

**Pritchard Laughlin Center**

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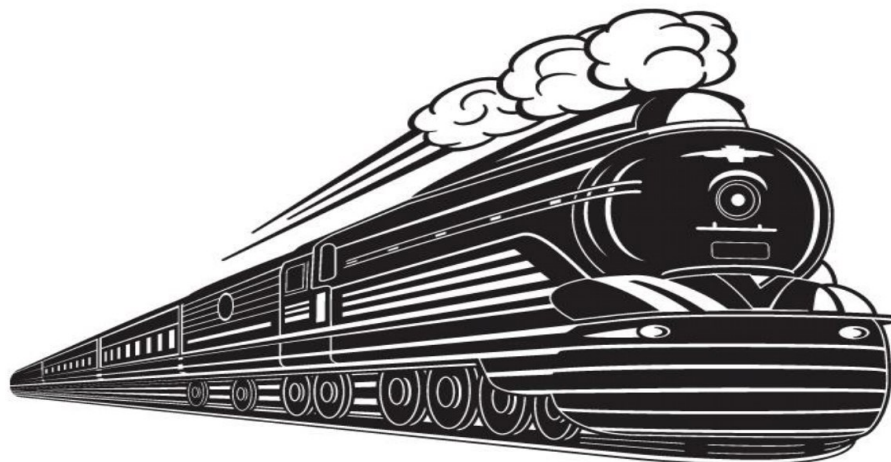
**Check out our website for a listing for more information:**

**<https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/trainshow.html>**

**Vendors Contact Greg - (740) 607-3223 - [trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org)**

# TRAIN SHOW & SALE

## OUR 32ND YEAR



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
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**3938 POPLAR LEVEL RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40213**

- Model Trains in All Scales
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- Retail Sales - Over 100 Dealer Tables
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### **ADMISSION**

**\$6.00 Per Person – Children 12 and under free with an adult**

Dealer Tables available - \$30 per table

For information or to reserve dealer tables contact:

Mark Hedge - (812) 288-8037 Email: [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com)

**Sponsored by Division 8 - Mid Central Region - NMRA**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**

Website: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>

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## RAILS TO PITTSBURGH 2023 Mid Central NMRA Regional Convention! May 4-7, 2023

### EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A GREAT CONVENTION, AND MORE!

Clinics – Tours – Contests – Non-Rail Activities – Layout Tours  
Banquet – White Elephant Tables – Door Prizes – Railfanning

Our convention hotel, the Doubletree by Hilton at Cranberry is conveniently located within easy access to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate-79 just north of Pittsburgh. You can visit the city, see Station Square, ride the Duquesne or Monongahela Inclines, railfan and enjoy the area. You are just 15 minutes from Norfolk Southern Mainline and 20 minutes from CSX Mainline.

Here are some of the POTENTIAL activities available at the RAILS TO PITTSBURGH Convention!

#### A Variety of Rail Tours

Steel Industry History  
The Bridges of Pittsburgh  
Port Authority Light Rail Shops  
The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum  
Allegheny Valley Railroad and Yard

#### Excellent Clinics

Western Pennsylvania Railroads  
Steel and Other Industries  
Operations: Real and Simulated  
Modern Railroad Practices  
Modeling Structures, Rolling Stock and Scenery

#### Non-Rail Tours and Clinics

Pittsburgh Glass Factory Tour,  
Card making, Jewelry,

#### Local Attractions

Carnegie Science Center – National Aviary  
Heinz History Center – Duquesne Incline  
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium  
Phipps Conservatory – The Andy Warhol Museum

#### Railfanning

NS & CSX Mainline Action  
W & LE & Union Railroad  
Variety of Local Short lines



For more information, check our website frequently for updates: [www.keystonedivision.org](http://www.keystonedivision.org)





*Midland Atlantic*

**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
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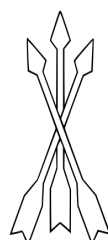
**CRUSTY  
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**Mark Maynard, President**  
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**Jerry Doyle, President**  
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[www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com](http://www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com)



**Ed Keith, MMR**  
 Assistant Superintendent  
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**NEW RIVER GORGE  
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 Clint Foster Superintendent  
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## Upcoming Coal Division Events

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letter via the US Postal  
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address, please let us  
know so we can save  
printing and postage  
costs. Send a note to  
[editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)  
to get onto the email dis-  
tribution list for Up 'The  
Holler.

**October 8**  
**In Person and Zoom**

**November 12**  
**In Person and Zoom**

**December 10**  
**Group Lunch**