



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

October 2022

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

It was great to visit Mark Maynard's for a wonderful mid-September meeting. We always enjoy our gathering at Mark's. This year Division 6 was not able to attend but already have it on their calendar for 2023. This event was well attended by Division 9 members with lots of trains to run, good food, and plenty of fellowship. Mark and his wife always go out of their way to provide us with an enjoyable time. It was really great to see two members that haven't make the trip to the Crusty before. I think they really enjoyed seeing what Mark has accomplished and enjoyed running train. Mark has made great progress on the scenery portions of his layout (too many new Super Trees to count!). Thanks Mark, for hosting us. We all enjoyed a great visit.

Our October 8th meeting at the St. Albans Historical Society building will feature a short business session, raffle, contest, and several Mini-Clinics. The contest will be open loads which is usually a very popular category.

After the mini-clinics we will be distributing this year's "Challenge" packets to those who wish to participate. A Servo Animation project is being offered for the 2022 Gary Burdette Challenge. This "Challenge" project should be very interesting and what Gary intended this event to be—TRY SOMETHING NEW! The packet includes a manual servo controller, 2 servos, power supply, and hardware. This should hopefully supply everything you need to animate something except the object. At the October meeting you will be able to assemble (plug together) and operate the servos, see examples of animation projects, ask questions, and discuss your project.

There are 20 packets available for this year's challenge. If you can't attend the October meeting and would still like to participate, the remaining packets will be available at the November. If you can't make either meeting or want your packet earlier, let Dale Osburn (304-529-1729) know. Dale will contact you on how you can obtain your packet or will notify you of locations and times for pick-up of the remaining packets much like he did last year. If necessary, some kits may be mailed or delivered in person.

Thanks! I hope to see you at St. Albans on October 8th, or if you can't be there please join us virtually!

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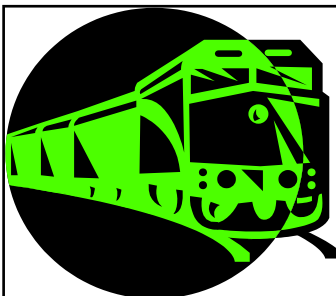
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday October 8 1:00 PM

St. Albans Historical Society

Division Membership Meeting

- Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)
- Approval of Minutes from the September meeting
- Treasurers Report
- Superintendents Report
- Assistant Superintendent Report
- Contest: Open Loads
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Mini Clinics:

Sam Delauter: Simple coal loads

Herb Parsons: Locomotives of The New River Train

Sam Delauter: Soldering with liquid flux

Next Event

Saturday November 12

St. Albans, WV

In Person and Zoom

OCTOBER **HYBRID** DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

Our October 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 October 8 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 October 8 Meeting

Topic: Division 9 October 2022
Time: Oct 8, 2022 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84516209240>

Meeting ID: 845 1620 9240

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

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9

THE COAL DIVISION

Portsmouth, Ohio

September 17, 2022

Minutes

Superintendent report

Robert Osburn opened the meeting, thanked the membership present for attending and thanked Mark and crew for their hospitality

Assistant superintendent report

Sam Delauter spoke about his recent newsletter article about #178 couplers

Contest chair

Dale Osburn reported that Don Cipolla's was the only entry

Clinic chair

Sam Delauter spoke about the upcoming mini clinic events

Membership chair

not present but membership around 50

Old business

We need to our items from the depot, preferably before Railroad Days. Sam Delauter is to contact SACOM about storing the grill

Sam Delauter is to talk to Diehl's to arrange for the December meeting

New business

There was no new business

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

Once again we made our annual visit to the Crusty Mountain. As always, Mark and his team provided a great cookout and the opportunity to not only visit his layout but also to run trains. Many thanks to Mark and his crew. While Mark makes progress and upgrades to his layout each year, this year Mark made a concerted effort to complete the scenery on his layout. As those that were there in the past know, Mark has made a lot of trees for his layout. While Mark made many other efforts on his scenery, the addition of trees makes a good and easily noticeable improvement.

While some of the members that I usually ride with were not able to make it this year, I had a really great time riding with Tony Pucini, Dale, and Robert Osburn. After catching a ride with Dale in Milton, we were enroute to pick up Tony and Robert. Once we picked them up, we were headed to the Crusty, or so I thought. Our first stop was to see the USS LST-325. This was unexpected and

very much welcomed. Tony had spent time on a ship of the same class. It was great not only learning a lot about the ship but also seeing how happy Tony was to see this ship which brought back many memories. After that we were officially off to visit the Crusty. That did not stop hearing the many stories and tidbits of information on many topics throughout the remainder of the trip. I not only learned much about the armed forces, I also learned that Tony was quite accomplished in his military career.

After the meeting we spent some time at Robert's house. Robert gave me the tour of not only his layout but his workshop and his vast collection that he has accumulated on his own but also Ed Keith's estate. Not only was I impressed by the collections and the layout, I was really impressed with what Robert and his wife have done with their home. They told me about all of the renovations both inside and out of their home, all of which were very impressive.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

I hope that everyone enjoyed our time at the Crusty Mountain. While we did not have a formal clinic, there is much that we can learn from visiting and hopefully running on Mark's layout. As always, many thanks to Mark for his hospitality. The remaining clinics for 2022 will be the pair of Mini Clinic Events. There are still a couple of spots open for the November event. Please let me know if you would be willing to give a short 10 minute or less

clinic. 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.

October	Mini Clinics 1
November	Mini Clinics 2
December	Square Foot Challenge

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The September contest was Photo, Model or Prototype. Don Cipolla took a photo of the Crown PT mine and the Crown PT Trestle and was the winner for the month of August.

October's contest will be Open Loads. We look forward to seeing everyone's entry.

Jumping forward to the month of November, the contest will be Passenger Cars. This always brings out some really good projects.

A big "thank you" to Mark Maynard for his hospitality. Just a great layout with so many updates!

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



T-TRAK

Sam Delauter, T-Trak Chair

It has been quit a while since I have written an article for our T-TRAK group. As I write this article, it is still September. By the time that this gets to most of you, it will no longer be September. What this means for the group is that November is coming soon. For several years prior to Covid, we participated in the Appalachian Model Railroaders train show Thanksgiving weekend. If we are to do this show again this year, the time to prepare for this

show is now. I have recently started working on my T-TRAK modules again in anticipation of this upcoming show. For the shows that we have participated in, there was always a “call for modules”. This was used to determine the modules that were to be used. This is not so much a call for modules as much as it is a call for preparation. At the October meeting, I would like to talk to the group about participating in this show

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

It sounds like I missed another great time at Mark Maynard's. My excuse for not being there is that I was in New Hampshire for the wedding of my niece. The scheduling for the weekend did allow me to attend the Mid Central Region Board of Directors virtual meeting as well as most of the monthly NMRA Board of Directors working session.

The previous weekend I attended the Allegheny Western Division's Mini-Meet in Erie, PA. This is patterned after the Division 2 Jamboree and done very well. There were two clinic tracks, I presented a clinic in one of them. In the afternoon, one clinic slot was filled by NMRA President Gordy Robinson via Zoom from his home in Scotland.

Gordy's presentation was on the NMRA Interchange program which will be coming out very soon. This program uses Discord, an application available for phones, tablets, and personal computers. The best way to describe it might be to compare it to Facebook. It's like Facebook but without the politics and vitriol. There will be spaces allocated to each Division, we can use that to discuss anything we want. One form will be written, there will also be the option to do things with cameras and sound. The idea is that this might be used in lieu of Zoom, time will tell if that works well. Fred Soward and I did have a brief discussion in a Discord chat room so we know it does work.

In addition to spaces for Divisions (and Regions) spaces can be easily created for any other subject. Right now there is one for the new Women in Model Railroading Special Interest Group and another for operations. Creating a new space is supposed to be easily done via some sort of work order process.

When it starts each member is assigned to his or her Division's space. Additional members can be added easily. For example, Tom Harris should be able to join the space even though he does not reside in our Division's boundaries.

Gordy shared his screen and showed us around the program. He's privy to everything, we will be much more limited on what we see which is really a good thing. Right now I can see it all and there's a lot there and it can be a bit confusing. It is being piloted now with one Division, a couple more Divisions will be added to the pilot program before it hits us. Gordy hopes to have it all available to us by Thanksgiving.

Gordy noted that his presentation to the group was the first time it had been presented outside of NMRA leadership, the Board, Department Heads, and Region Presidents. A full rollout will come, likely starting in early October, with lots of videos and learning opportunities. I'm sure we will have a clinic showing it off, I'll need to schedule that with Sam Delauter. This might sound like the forums of old but it seems to offer much more and I hope it is well received.

Yes, this is something new, and you might be reluctant to try it out. Give it a chance, you might like it! From what I can see, the users in the pilot program are from all ages and backgrounds. If they can do it, we can do it.

Finally, what, you might ask, is this grand program costing the NMRA? The answer is ZERO. I don't quite understand how that works but I'm not going to complain.

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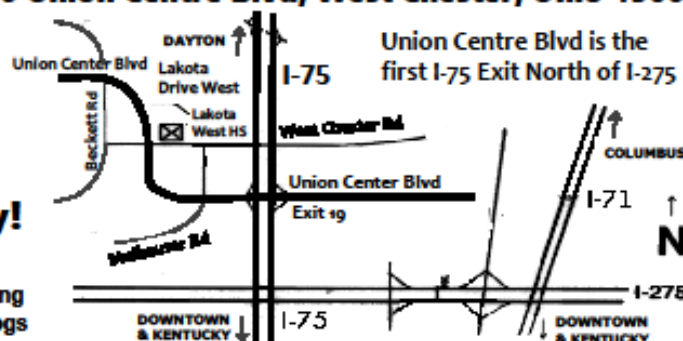
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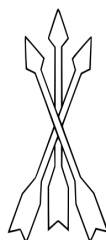
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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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November 12
In Person and Zoom

December 10
Group Lunch

January 14
In Person and Zoom

February 11
In Person and Zoom