



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

November 2022

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

Our October 8th meeting at the St. Albans Historical Society building was very well attended and featured a short business session, raffle, contest, and several Mini-Clinics. Sam Delauter showed us how to make simple coal loads and then demonstrated the use of liquid flux as a soldering aid. Herb Parsons had a very interesting presentation featuring the locomotives used on the New River Train. For me, his clinic brought back lots of fond memories of when my Dad was a coach host for several years. Thanks, Sam and Herb for your very well presented and informational clinics!

After the mini-clinics Dale Osburn distributed 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 included a manual servo controller, 2 servos, power supply, and hardware. This should hopefully supply everything you need to animate something except the object. During the meeting we even had another mini-clinic where we were able to open the packets, assemble the components and practice movement of a servo. It was great to hear all the ideas being passed around on what members planned to make come to life with their packet. We still have several packets available if you wish to participate. Remember, this is not a contest but a challenge. You don't even have to make an elaborate diorama—just show something being moved with a servo. It's going to be really interesting seeing the projects at the December meeting.

We will again try and keep the November business session short but we need to finalize our plans for a December Luncheon and discuss any Division plans for participating in the upcoming AMRS Train Show, Nov. 25, 26, and 27th in Huntington, WV. To round out the November meeting the contest will be Passenger Cars. Tom Harris will be conducting the raffle, and Sam Delauter has a slate of interesting mini-clinics scheduled.

Thanks! I hope to see you at St Albans on November 12th, or if you can't be there, please join us virtually!

REMEMBERING ALLEN McCLELLAND

Jerry Doyle

W. Allen McClelland, one of the hobby's greatest pioneers, passed away October 28, 2022. From the 1960s until today, Allen was our hobby's greatest ambassador. He didn't start a manufacturing or publishing company; he promoted model railroading by sharing his enthusiasm for the hobby and prototype operations in particular on his freelanced Virginian & Ohio.

His approach to prototypic model railroad operations gained popularity after a multi-part series of articles in *Railroad Model Craftsman* in 1977 (these were later released as *The V&O Story* which is still available). These were followed by numerous articles in *RMC* and *Model Railroader* as well as several commercially produced videos. He generously opened his home regularly to a plethora of visitors who visited both of his layouts over the decades. He also allowed numerous custom runs of V&O cars in multiple scales to benefit the NMRA.

I first met Allen in the mid 1980s at a V&O open house. Having read several articles on the V&O over the years I expected to see a huge layout but what I discovered was a reasonably sized layout that was impressive in

its execution. What fascinated me wasn't any single thing, it was the way everything worked just like a real railroad. It was a complete system with assigned crew positions, a waybill car forwarding system, and dispatcher with CTC control. Allen was very open and approachable and would patiently answer questions on any aspect of the V&O.

The original V&O was dismantled in 2001 when he moved to a new home, but construction began shortly after on a new layout. The second V&O was fully operational by 2004 but was dismantled in 2008 when Allen moved again. Several Coal Division members were among the attendees at the final open house in March of 2008. The spirit of the V&O continues on Jerry Albers' HO Virginian Railway layout where Allen was able to model a portion of the V&O at Deepwater, WV.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of layouts across the world that have taken inspiration from Allen's work and generosity. Although he was always humble, Allen was the most influential model railroader of our time.



Allen McClelland,
May 12, 1984
Photo by Lin Young

Action on the second
Virginian and Ohio
March 2008
Photo by Jerry Doyle



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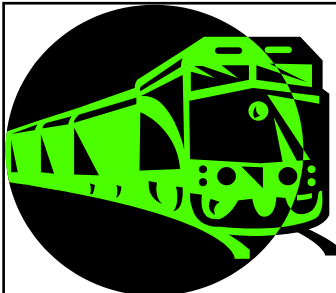
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday November 12 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: Passenger
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Mini Clinics:

Bob Weinheimer: Scrap Loads

Bill Grosse: Scrap Loads

Bob Weinheimer: Ballast

Don Cipolla: Layout Tour

Next Event

Saturday December 10

Diehl's Restaurant

In Person, no Zoom

NOVEMBER **HYBRID** DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

Our November 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. There will also be a railroad related clinic and possibly more.

Our meeting will be Saturday November 12 at our regular time of 1 p.m.

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

Topic: November Meeting

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83667400270>

Meeting ID: 836 6740 0270

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
St. Albans Historical Society
October 8, 2022
Minutes

Members introduced themselves.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Robert Osburn at 1:20 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

September minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$8,470.35. We reimbursed Robert Osburn \$156.64 for supplies for the August picnic and paid \$70 for use of the venue for October and November today.
 Company Store \$0.
 Raffle \$31.
 Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report Robert thanked everyone for attending. He apologized for the delay today, the key holder for the building was out of town. He thanked Mark Maynard for hosting the September meeting and how enjoyable the meeting was.

Assistant Superintendent Report Sam Delauter commented on the advantages of carpooling to meetings. It's a good way to get to know other members.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of October 31 for the November newsletter. The address for contributions is editor@coaldivision.org.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer mentioned that Bill Grosse and Patrick Miller have had their paperwork for AP certificates approved. He also mentioned that the NMRA Discord exchange should be available by Thanksgiving.

Library

Bill Wadsworth had the library available today.

Clinic

Today's clinics are several mini clinics by Herb Parsons-New River Train Steam and Sam Delauter-Modifying Stock Coal Loads. Next month will be more mini clinics. Bob Weinheimer suggested having Gordy Robinson give a presentation on the new NMRA Discord server. Jerry Doyle volunteered to present in January or February.

Contest

Today's contest is open loads. Next month, passenger cars.

Membership

John Harris reported that membership is down at 46. He has reached out to several members whose membership had recently expired.

Raffle

Dale Osburn handled the raffle today.

Education

No report.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

Division 2 would like to make a presentation on the 2023 MCR convention at the November meeting.

Jerry Doyle mentioned starting a group focused on operations. It would meet at one of our member's operating layouts on another Saturday on a rotating basis. He will be contacting those people. It will be open to any members interested in learning more about prototypic operations.

Sam Delauter has been contacted about participating with the COHS in a T-TRAK display at the Huntington Model Railroad Show in November.

Jerry Doyle recognized Robert Osburn for receiving the NMRA President's Award for his work above and beyond in promoting the hobby at the division level.

Announcements

There will be a show at:
 Cambridge, Ohio October 23
 Parkersburg October 29 at WVU Parkersburg
 Louisville, KY November 12

Future Meetings:

November 12 – St Albans Historical Society
 December 10 – Diehl's Restaurant
 January 14 -- St Albans Historical Society

Meeting adjourned at 1:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

While we don't often talk about railfanning at our meetings, the month of October gives us a great chance to do some railfanning. Every year during the end of October, the Autumn Colors Express gives us a great excuse to get out there and watch trains. The Autumn Colors Express is new to our state only by name. The ACE is the successor to the New River Train. This train is not only a major source of revenue for our state but it also brings many tourists to our state that never would have visited under other circumstances. For years I was unable to chase or ride the train because I spent my time at the Hinton Rail Museum. While running the museum's N scale layout, I got the opportunity to talk to many people from the casual tourist to people that travel the globe riding trains. When you hear that people come from all over the world to ride this train, they are not exaggerating. I spoke with many very enthusiastic people from several continents and many countries. What all of these people had in common was their love for trains no matter how big or small.

Since the pandemic, the city has taken over the museum in Hinton and the upstairs of the museum is not used during their festival. That means that I was basically out a job. Since I was not going to be at the museum, I took several days railfanning. My schedule didn't allow me to spend the entire weekend but I was able to catch the train on three occasions. Each of these was special to me in different ways. First I caught the train westbound on Thursday night at the Scott Depot exit on I-64. This location was special to me because I grew up at the top of the hill overlooking the crossing. I have very fond memories of catching the New River Train from this crossing or

from my bedroom window. The second location that I caught the train from was in St. Albans. This is another location that my grandparents took me as a child to catch the New River Train in the days of steam. I was able to catch the train westbound on Friday evening.

The last time that I caught the train was on the final run back to Huntington on Sunday evening. I had never caught the train leaving the station in Charleston so that was my destination of choice on Sunday. On Thursday and Friday, Amtrak 203 was the loco that brought the train back to Huntington. This locomotive is among the Amtrak 50th Anniversary fleet and is painted in Operation Lifesaver livery. While it was great to see such a unit as the lead loco, there were some changes and something a bit more out of the ordinary had happened. At some point on Saturday, 203 had a failure and went down. The train requires three locos to make it from Huntington to Hinton due to the grades on the former C&O. Since 203 went down, another loco had to be added. CSX provided GP40-2 6145. I had heard that these issues had happened and was ready to see the consist. They shuffled the consist around and had the GP40 second in line on the return trip. After a brief stop in Charleston, the train was off to the final leg of the trip. They stopped long enough that onlookers could get a good look at the motive power and the private cars as they were in the station stop.

While it is not the same as when steam ran, it is always great to see this train and to see what special locos and varnish that it will bring. I'm sure that there were other Coal Division members out chasing the train and I would love to hear your experiences at the November meeting.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

The first of the mini clinics event consisted of four mini clinics. Herb Parsons gave a clinic on the Steam Locomotives that have pulled the New River Train. I then gave two clinics. The first was "How to modify stock coal loads quickly and realistically". The second was on "Why you should be soldering with liquid flux". The last clinic of the day was a presentation by Robert Osburn. This was in preparation for the Square Foot Challenge. Robert passed out the square foot challenge and gave a hands on clinic on how to assemble or servos. Robert also had many of his own servos on hand for demonstration purposes to help give us ideas of what you can do with servos. I hope that everyone enjoyed the first of the mini clinic events.

November will be the final clinic of 2022. We will be having the last of the mini clinic events. Please see below for the itinerary on this event:

Bob Weinheimer: scrap loads
 Bob Weinheimer: making ballast
 Don Cipolla: layout tour
 Bill Grosse: scrap loads

As a follow up to my clinics, I was asked a number of questions about product safety. According to the [Material Safety Data Sheet](#), it contains zinc chloride as its only hazardous ingredient but it notes that hydrochloric acid can be formed as a byproduct of its use. When using this product rubber gloves and a face shield are recommended.

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

We had three entries in the Open Loads contest (see below for details).

First Place
Sam Delauter
Lackawanna Flatcar & Trailer

Second Place
Bob Weinheimer
Pipe Loads

Third Place
Patrick Miller
Bridge Timbers
Balsa wood weathered and painted.
Machine Load

The 6th annual Gary Burdette Challenge will be "Let's move something with a servo". Robert Osburn provided the kits, user friendly instructions and a brief introduction about servos. There will be 11 individuals who will be participating in the challenge.

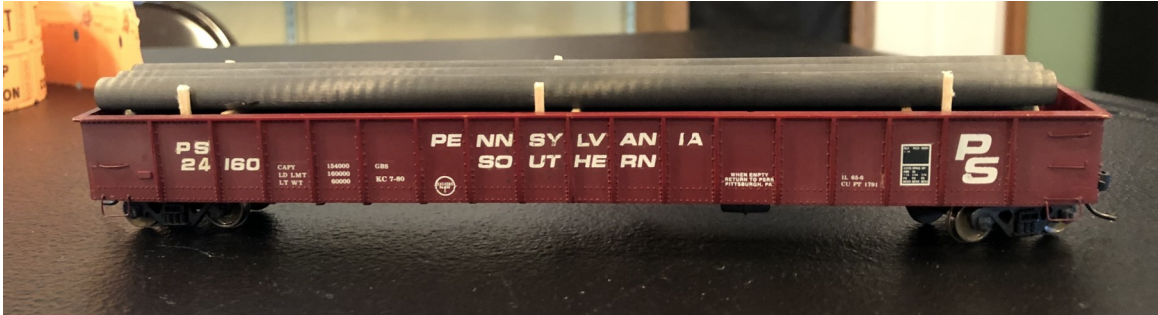
Remember, if you would like to be a part of the challenge, kits are still available. If interested, please contact Dale Osburn at 304-840-4366. Lastly, the November contest will be passenger cars.

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



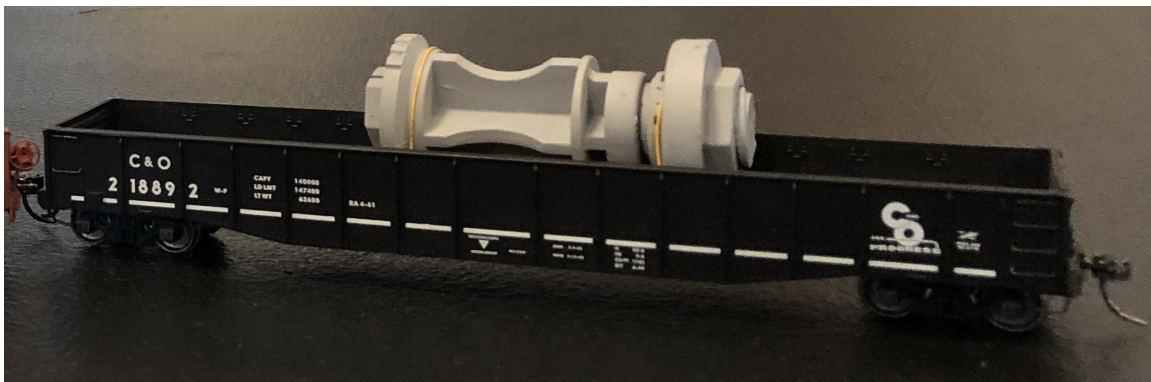
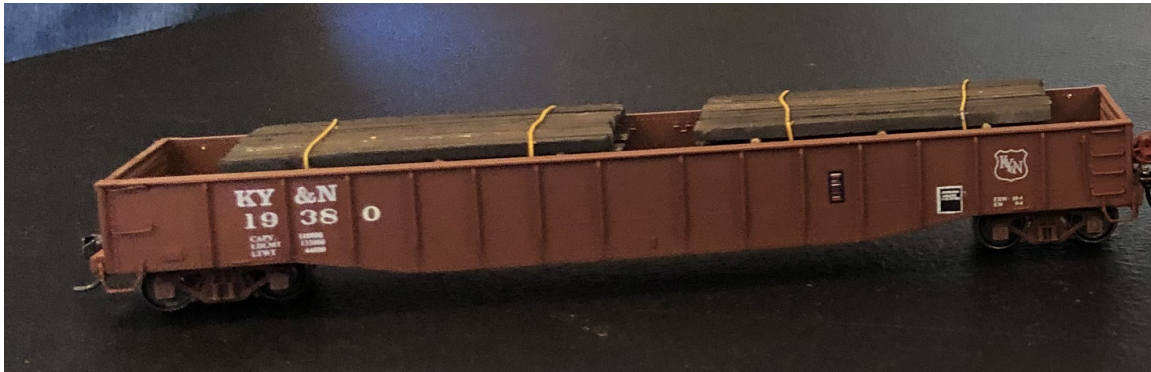
Sam Delauter
Lackawanna Flatcar & Trailer

- Sparrows Point kit.
 - Resin kit.
 - Painted with TCP paint.
- Built from prototype photos.



Second Place
Bob Weinheimer
Pipe Loads

- Tubing bought at train show; said to be arrows as in bow and arrows.
- Variety of lengths, this worked for the 65-foot car. Basswood pieces used to pack for shipment.



Patrick Miller
Bridge Timbers
Balsa wood weathered and painted.
Machine Load

- Found in a random box going through the garbage.
- Painted; then Cribbed for a gondola load.



Mid Central Region Vice President Jerry Doyle presents Coal Division Superintendent Robert Osburn with the 2022 President's Award for Service to the Division. This is a national award from the NMRA President to one member of each Region who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. It's the man or woman who's always willing to help, always volunteers, and always can be counted on to be there when his or her Division needs something. It's the person who epitomizes the "spirit of the NMRA." Congratulations to Robert! Photo by Dale Osburn

T-TRAK **Sam Delauter, T-TRAK Chair**

The Coal Division will once again be participating in the Huntington Train Show. However, this year we will have a joint layout with the C&OHS. By the time that this is published, all of the members of our T-TRAK group

should have received an email from me. If you have not, it is not too late. If you have not received an email yet please contact me with the size of your modules and how many modules you would like to bring to the show.

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

Diversity has been a much talked about subject recently but for me, diversity is very much a part of the model railroad hobby. Sure, we come from all backgrounds, ages, economic means, and ethnicities. But the diversity I am referring to is what brought us to model railroading and the approach we take to the hobby. For some, it may be a life-long passion that goes back to that first train placed under the Christmas tree by Santa. For others it might be a mid-life search for something to do in retirement. Regardless of what brought us into the hobby, the common denominator seems to be a fascination with trains.

While perhaps all of us share in this fascination, the approach we take to the hobby may be where the diversity really kicks in. Some choose to model a specific railroad or family of railroads and in many cases a very specific time frame. Others choose to model anything that they find attractive or interesting regardless of the road or era. Still others will choose to freelance and create their own railroad with its own identity and character. These may be whimsical while others perhaps may be loosely based on a prototype but still a creation all their own.

For many, it is about creating a miniature replication of a place or time, whether real or imagined. Scenery and appearance are critical to the feel of the railroad and giving the illusion of the real thing. For many, this is not enough. The operations of the railroad and making it "run" like the real thing is the ultimate challenge and goal. Understanding schedules, train orders, waybills, and signaling becomes critical to the workings of the railroad. This gives the models purpose.

There are those of us that focus in on a specific road and find the research into the history of that road and its operations, geography, structures, locomotives, freight and passenger cars to be a hobby in itself. Understanding how the real railroad did things and perhaps why give credibility to the modeling and perhaps leads to a more plausible layout. Knowing the equipment and structures of the era helps with decisions on color schemes, locomotive and equipment to purchase or scratch build.

Creating an entire layout regardless of how large or small may be of interest to some, for others it is more about the model making itself. It may be all about creating detailed structures, or locomotives or rolling stock. It can be about super detailing a ready to run or kitbashing one model into something completely different. Still others focus on scratch building their favorite prototype or structure unique to their chosen era. Regardless, the act of creating a model is the reward whether as a stand-alone model or as part of a diorama.

And now, with the introduction of "T-TRAK" those with space or time limitations can create their own small part of a bigger whole. While this might in part replace the need to create a full sized layout for some, others with a layout of their own may choose to experiment and create something completely different. Again, diversity in approach allows each modeler to focus on their own specific interest, as long as it meets the dimensional limitations prescribed by "T-TRAK."

But diversity does not stop there. Some may not be interested in the creation process at all. They may have been brought into the hobby by the simply desire to "run trains." They might be interested in joining others on someone else's layout and do switching to make up full trains, or run locals with drop-offs and pick-ups along the way. Acting as a Dispatcher may be the job of others. Issuing train orders and following a time table may be the stress relief some are looking for at the end of the day.

And let's not forget that for some, it is simply the fellowship with other enthusiasts that draws us into the hobby. Of course, there are some of us that it is all the above. At times it may be a little more about one aspect of the hobby while at other times it may be about another. It all comes down to the fact that there are many aspects of the hobby. All of us are drawn to the hobby for diverse yet common reasons.

Hopefully I will be joining you via Zoom for the November meeting. Meanwhile, keep modeling and be safe.

LIBRARY CORNER

Bill Wadsworth, Librarian

Due to the inactivity of the library's usage (there have been no withdrawals since February 2020) I have decided to change how we use the library in the future. If a member would like information on a particular subject, please contact me by phone (304 768 3266) or an email (bill3266@frontier.com) and I will bring the appropriate info to the next meeting. If this is not fast enough I can

mail it to them within a few days of the request. Any other ideas or suggestions on the library's usage are welcome and encouraged. I know most of our members have been in model railroading for some time and already have a lot of knowledge and experience, but most of us have a weakness in some particular area(s) and can use a little guidance where these clinics can be a lot of help.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Like many others, I think back to what Allen McClelland has brought to the hobby. I first was in his presence at the last open house of the second V&O layout although my interaction with Allen was very limited due to the large crowd. My first real interaction was a year later. I had been invited to give a clinic about the operations on my layout to the Division in Dayton. The drive over was on a rainy Sunday and when I got there one of the locals and I got the computer and projector all set up. I sat near the back during the business meeting then headed up front for the clinic. It was then that I noticed that Allen had taken a seat in the row behind me. After the clinic, as I was packing up, he came to me and said he would like to run on my railroad. Needless to say, that made my day! The drive home, still rainy, was quite bright in my mind. Unfortunately, a visit to the Pennsylvania Southern by Allen never did happen.

Like many others, I had read his series of articles in the 1977 issues of *Model Railroad Craftsman* and they made a big impression on me. A few years later,

when I had my first basement, a serious freelance layout was what I wanted to do. As I got operating experience on two prototype based layouts, I applied the principles I saw there with those I read about and to my layout.

While I have scratch built and kitbashed a number of cars, I think I independently developed Allen's "good enough" concept for an operating layout.

Over the years since that clinic in Dayton I met Allen numerous times at train shows and Region conventions and even a couple of times at Jerry Albers' layout. On Jerry's layout was the third V&O, albeit a small version that still worked well with the overall layout. Allen dispatched the V&O section one time I was there, it was great to copy train orders from him.

Allen was always approachable and sharing of his knowledge and experience. In his memory I have several V&O cars produced by the Cincinnati Division as well as a brand new reefer from Three Notch Rail Freelance Trains that arrived just a few days ago.

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- Receive 9 monthly issues of *NMRA Magazine*
- Receive reduced rates on layout or collection insurance
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- Attend events at your local Division or Region

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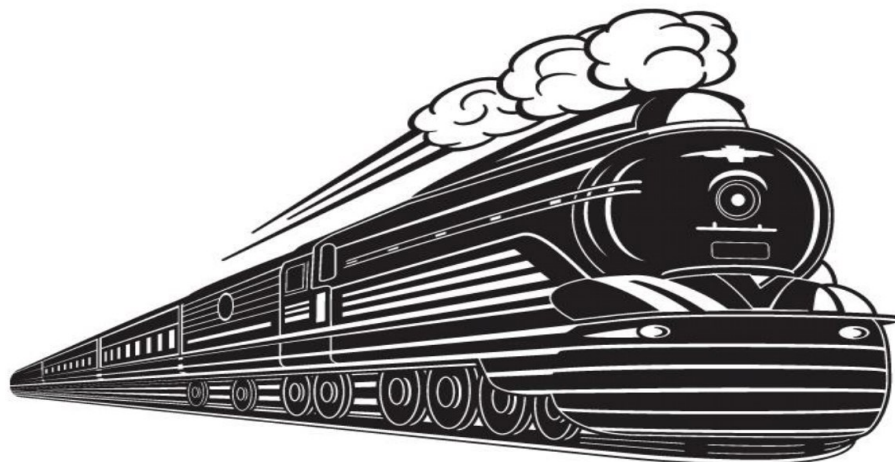


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OUR 32ND YEAR



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Holy Family Parish Saffin Center
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Dealer Tables available - \$30 per table

For information or to reserve dealer tables contact:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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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
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Variety of Local Short lines



For more information, check our website frequently for updates: www.keystonedivision.org



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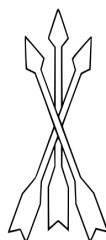
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Jerry Doyle, President
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**THREE ARROWS
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**December 10
Group Lunch**

**January 14
In Person and Zoom**

**February 11
In Person and Zoom**

**March 11
In Person and Zoom**