



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

February 2023

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

The January meeting was again well attended both in-person and virtually. After our normal welcome and introductions, Dennis Coglianese, the Superintendent of Division 2, joined us virtually and presented information about the upcoming Mid-Central Regional Convention. Following Dennis' presentation a short business session was conducted which included Division Clerk, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chair reports. Bob Weinheimer gave an update on the Newsletter and as Achievement Program Chair, he acknowledged the many certificates for achievement and merit awards he presented to the members at the December Luncheon. Dale Osburn, the Contest Chair, presented Certificates of Participation to those who participated in the 2022 Memorial Challenge and John Harris, the Membership Chair, reported we were holding steady with 43 members on our roster. Because of Tom Harris's absence, Tony Puccini volunteered to accept the position of Raffle Chair.

Under new business, Sam Delauter will give us information during the February meeting about the upcoming KVRM Model Train and Craft Show in Charleston. This occurs on the same Saturday as our March meeting and decisions need to be made concerning our participation/meeting during the show. Jerry Doyle informed us regarding information about scheduling round-robin operation secessions at various members model railroads. It seems this is a very welcome endeavor as many members look forward to learning about operations and those that have operating railroads need people to run their trains.

Remember, the February 11th meeting will be at the St. Albans Historical Society building. The business session starts at 1:00 pm. Again, this will be a hybrid meeting, so if you can't be there in-person please join us virtually. The contest will be Steam Locomotives and the Clinic, Craftsman Kits, will be presented by Sam Delauter. Tony Puccini will have a good selection of items for the raffle and Bob Weinheimer will give us an update on a new type of paint striper.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your participation and support. I hope you can join us February 11th!

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Vacant

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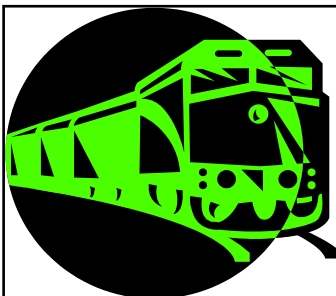
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Tony Puccini

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DIVISION STAFF

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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday February 11 1:00 PM

St. Albans Historical Society

Division Membership Meeting

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Approval of Minutes from the January meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Steam Locomotives**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Sam Delauter tells us about craftsman kits**

Next Event

Saturday March 11

Location to be Determined

In Person and Zoom

FEBRUARY **HYBRID** DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

While COVID has been getting better, we are finding that continuing to offer meeting participation virtually is worth continuing. Members who don't wish to travel longer distances, those traveling outside the bounds of the

Division, former members who have moved away, and others from near and far join us and we welcome them. We are constantly trying to improve the experience so keep joining us on Zoom if you can't make it in person.

Topic: February Meeting
Time: Feb 11, 2023 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86784846998>

Meeting ID: 867 8484 6998

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

Thanks to Paul Downs of MCR Division 8 for these tips.

NMRA ELECTIONS

Each year around this time the NMRA holds elections for officials at the National level. In some years there are elections that involve each member and in some years it appears to be fairly quiet. This year is in that latter category but for those members of the Coal Division residing in Ohio and Kentucky, it's your time to vote! The Central District Director seat on the NMRA board is up for grabs as the current Central District Director, Bill Neale, is term limited so a new Director must be elected.

In addition to Ohio and Kentucky, this election district includes the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana.

The member elected to this position will represent

you but is also expected to keep the best interests of the NMRA as a whole in mind as he or she votes on NMRA issues.

By now you should have received a ballot, either in the mail or a link via email. If the NMRA has your email address, you will receive the electronic ballot link. If not, you will receive a paper ballot. There are two candidates, read their "vote for me" blurbs and make an educated choice. Please vote by the deadline, the results should be available in April.

And, if you are wondering, those of us in West Virginia get our chance next year when the Eastern District Director election takes place.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

Over the last couple weeks I have been in Nitro during lunchtime. On a handful of those days, I have been able to catch the Kanawha River Railroad (WATCO). While the KNWA operates daily, it can be hard to catch a train. I don't know exactly how many trains pass through daily, but it is not many. The yard in Nitro is small and only has one inhabitant, a GP39-2, number 3902. Other than its duties in the yard, about all of the switching you will see it working is Lehigh Cement and the Potash loading facility. Lehigh Cement sits on a spur off of the yard and they take several hoppers or more per week. If you see any Maryland Midland hoppers in the yard, those belong to Lehigh Cement. A few years back WATCO put installed the potash loader in the yard. Potash is brought across the river from the John Amos Power Plant to load in the yard in Nitro. It strikes me as odd that CSX couldn't work out a deal with them so it must be cheaper to truck it off site. All other online customers for KNWA are some distance from the yard, these customers will be handled on the local. The vast majority of the times that I have been in Nitro, 3902 has been idling or off on the local.

I have also had the chance to catch some of the manifest freights passing through. Typically they make a quick stop in Nitro to pick up a few cars and then head on their way. To me there is something special about seeing SD45s or SD60s moving through the yard to pickup a cut of cars. While the SD60 can still be seen in some places, the SD45 are much rarer. The number of railroads who run these older diesels are much fewer.

If someone were looking for railroad to model, this would be a great one. It is a fairly short run, Columbus, OH to Mullens, WV. The bulk of the railroad is single tracked with several yards. Most of the traffic that is sent on the locals goes to the chemical plants. There are a number of manifests that pass through and a number of coal drags. Because of this traffic, the bulk of the rolling stock that you would need are coal hoppers, tank cars, and two bay covered hoppers. Due to this, your radius on your curves could be kept fairly tight and you could focus on switching operations in the various yards, coal load outs and chemical plants that are online.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

This years' clinic were off to a good start with the January clinic presented by Jerry Doyle who gave us an update on his layout. The clinic focused on how Jerry has built his layout for operations. On a funny note, much of this clinic was about how to tell where all of the tracks on his layout actually go as the track plan has branches and branches off branches.

The February clinic will be on craftsman kits. I am going to focus on the various types of rolling stock craftsman kits and tips and tricks to build them.

February - Craftsman Kits, Sam Delauter
 March - Switch Machines, Mark Maynard
 April - Wood Kits, Dale Osborn
 May - Steel Is King
 June - Mini Clinics Event
 July - vacant
 August - Winter Scenery, Patrick Miller
 September - Crusty Mountain
 October - Mini Clinics Event
 November - vacant
 December - Gary Burdette Memorial Challenge

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.

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
St. Albans Historical Society
January 14, 2023
Minutes

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

Division Clerk Report

November minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$8,399.71.
 Company Store \$63.
 Raffle \$76.
 Pike Ads \$0.

Anticipated future expenses - there will be \$140 spent for the meeting room for the next four months.

Superintendent Report Robert commented on the how enjoyable the December Christmas lunch meeting was and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. He mentioned how nice the meeting space was on a cold day given other places we have held meetings. The monthly raffle supports the expense of the meeting facility.

Assistant Superintendent Report Sam Delauter commented on the transitioning to normal activity after the COVID shutdown. Activities are getting back to normal levels.

The agenda was suspended to allow Dennis Coglianese to give a virtual presentation on the 2023 MCR being held at Pittsburgh May 4-7.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of January 30 for the February newsletter. The address for contributions is editor@coalddivision.org.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer reported a lull in Division 9 activity. Mike Hohn is filling in as national AP chair while Frank Koch recovers from surgery.

Library

Bill Wadsworth nothing new to report.

Clinic

Today's clinic is *An Update on the Crescent Valley* by Jerry Doyle

Contest

Today's contest is modeler's choice. Next month is Steam which is anything that is railroad steam. There was some discussion on how enjoyable and effective the Gary Burdette Square Foot Challenge has been. Robert Osburn

shared some details on the 2023 challenge.

Membership

John Harris reported that membership is the same as this time last year at 43. Generally, divisions are experiencing the same trend in membership. Name tags will be ordered soon, the cost will be \$12-15.

Raffle

Tom Harris is stepping down as Raffle Chair. Tony Puccini agreed to take over in this role.

Education

No report.

Old Business

Jerry Doyle announced the Operations Round Robin sessions will commence on Saturday February 25 on Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern in Charleston. Contact Bob Weinheimer or Jerry Doyle if you're interested.

Jerry also mentioned that many divisions have a layout open after their monthly meetings.

New Business

Robert Osburn showed everyone a new product for paint stripping called LA Awesome. He also brought a mysterious hopper/boxcar from Ed Keith's collection.

Robert brought some miscellaneous items for members to take. He asked that they make a donation to the Division as they felt was appropriate.

Sam Delauter mentioned manning a T TRAK display the upcoming Charleston Railroad show in March. The show will be March 11 & 12 which coincides with our scheduled meeting day. Sam will contact the show sponsors about details on holding our meeting at that location.

Mark Maynard suggested moving the September meeting to the 16th.

Announcements

Bob Weinheimer reminded the members in Ohio and Kentucky there is an upcoming election for the NMRA National Board of Directors.

Future Meetings:

February 11 -- St Albans Historical Society

Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

The contest for the month of January was Modeler's Choice.

First Place
Fire Creek Coal Temple
Built by Herbert Parsons

Second Place
Background Buildings
Built by Robert Osburn

January entry for the Gary Burdette Challenge

Windmill
Built by Tony Puccini

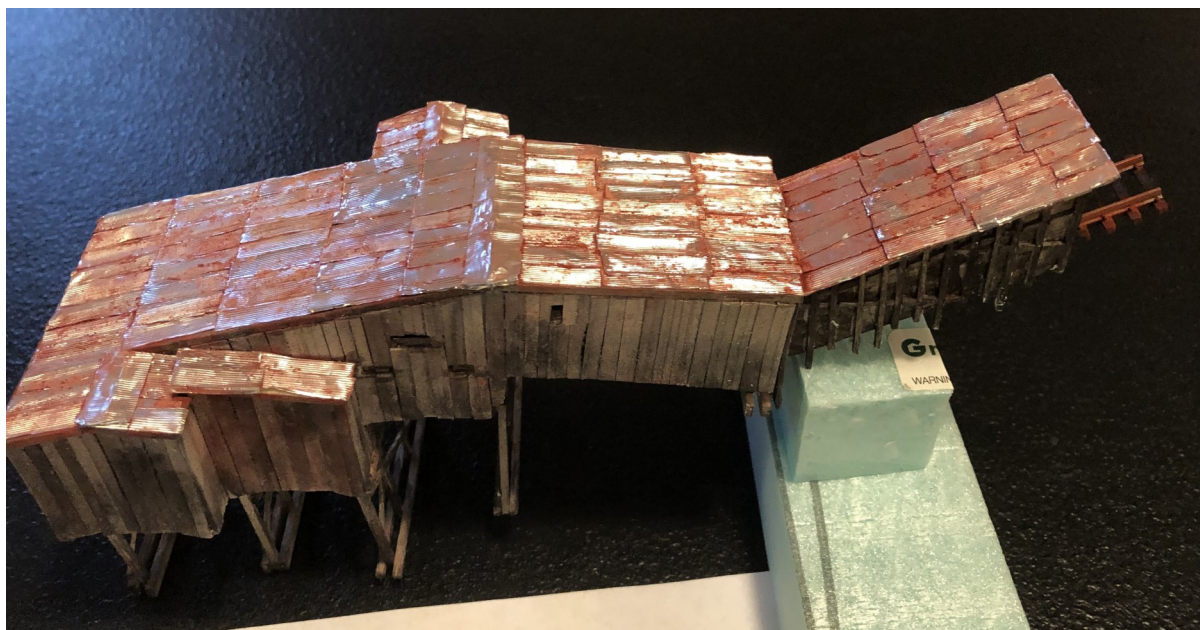
Lastly, the February contest will be Steam Locomotives.



2023	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

Windmill
Tony Puccini

- Purchased a Kibri windmill kit which contained two windmills. A wider base was needed to fit the Servo unit inside the N Scale model.
- Put together the kit and test fitted all electronic components.
- Base for the model was made from styrene foam.
- The model was weathered and scenery was added to the model.



Fire Creek Coal Tipple
Herb Parsons

- Scratch built structure using photos of the temple as it existed in the 1930's and 40's in the town of Fire Creek, WV.
- Siding is board by board construction. The boards were cut individually and glued to the frame. The floor is also built board by board.
- The corrugated iron roof is made from aluminum foil using a tool from Brunel Hobby's of Australia.
- The roof was weathered with Doc O Brian's weathering powders.



Background Buildings
Built by Robert Osburn

- Cornerstone Model products.
- DPM building wall sections (backs of buildings) front sections of buildings were used in other areas of the layout.

PASSENGER MANIFEST

John Harris, Membership Chair

It is hard to believe that we are already one full month into 2023. It seems to me that 2022 went by way too quickly. Perhaps that was because 2020 and 2021 were such trying times. Hopefully we will not be faced with another resurgence or new variant to preoccupy us for the next 11 months or so. Still, I see challenges for the upcoming year for Division 9. As reported at the January membership meeting, we are again facing a down turn in membership. Following an encouraging increase in membership to nearly pre-pandemic levels, we are again down to near low of 44 active members. No need to panic, as many of those “missing in action” were trial members thru the Rail Pass Sign-up process. Retention in that category is well below 100%.

In March, we have another opportunity to do a public outreach and perhaps improve those numbers. Again, we have been invited to participate in the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association Train Show at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center on the 10th, 11th, and 12th. As this corresponds with our regular meeting on Saturday, the 11th, we are anticipating that meeting will be held there. Details will be included in the March newsletter if those arrangements are confirmed.

Regardless, this is always a great opportunity for us to represent NMRA at a local event. We will have a presence with our booth display and several T-TRAK modules will be set up to demonstrate member creativity. Brochures, informational handouts, and back issues of the newsletter and NMRA Magazine will be available to promote NMRA membership along with Rail Pass applications. I will be

needing help to man the booth, however. A sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting for volunteers to sit at the table and answer questions and hand out information to interested prospects. These will be for 2 hour segments only so the time commitment is not that large. And before and after you will have plenty of time to take in the show and perhaps drop some coin on the local vendors.

Typically we will see plenty of traffic at these events and answer lots of questions. Most of those attending are more casual railroaders and those that have a “layout” set up under the tree or in a child’s bedroom. That is OK, as that is perhaps how most of us were introduced into the hobby. Showing both completed projects in the photos as well as the “how to” diorama gives us an opportunity to engage parents and children alike in a discussion of possibilities. They can see that they too might be able to raise the bar and create a more realistic layout. I have in the past, taken a partially completed craftsman kit or other work in progress and will work on it during the show. This too raises questions and provides one more opportunity to engage the public and promote NMRA. Every once and a while, we do get to chat with modelers who were once in the hobby and looking to get back into it. These become the real targets and potential Rail Pass candidates. It is these occasions that give us the best chance of increasing the numbers and expanding our group.

Keep modeling and be safe. See you at February meeting.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

I’ve just returned from the big train show in Springfield, MA. To call it big is an understatement. It occupied something like 350,000 square feet or about 8 football fields. It is spread across four buildings, the smallest would be a good size train show venue. The saying goes that if you can’t find it there it doesn’t exist and I sure can’t dispute that. The attendance Saturday was something like 11,000 with another 7,000 or so on Sunday. Including exhibitors the total was a bit over 21,000.

In addition to manufacturers and vendors, there were many well done modular layouts including a large E shaped T-TRAK display. I can now see why this is a bucket list item for some folks. As many of you know, I usually travel to New Hampshire to visit family at Christmas. I have, until now, not been inspired to turn around a month later and drive back to New England in the winter. As it happened, the travel conditions were almost ideal and the weather during the show was quite pleasant.

The real reason for going was to attend the NMRA

Board of Directors meeting and associated events. While we discussed a broad number of issues, the only one passed by the board was to authorize President Gordy Robinson to travel to the United States to attend a Region convention this fall. That may not sound like much but we really did make progress on some other items but not to the point of making a firm decision.

The open session was attended by a number of members, remember that you are welcome, as an NMRA member, to observe the meeting. The next chance to do so is the days leading up to the National Convention in Texas in August.

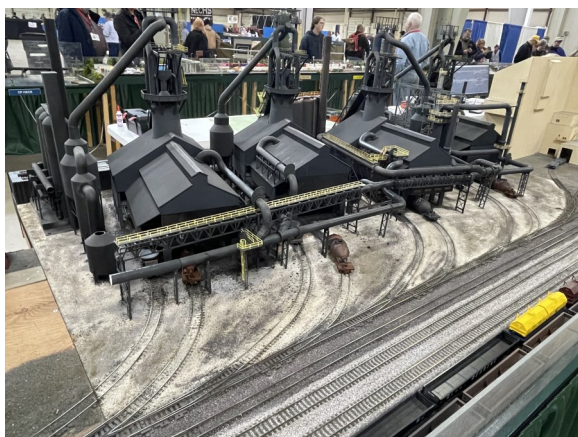
I hope you listened well to the presentation on the upcoming MCR convention in Pittsburgh, it should be a good one. And if you want to see a Region convention on steroids, try the National convention down in Texas. Don’t worry about the heat, they do have plenty of air conditioning. There are ads for both with contact information on the following pages.



How big is this show? The photo on the left is the Better Living Center, one of the largest buildings, and the picture doesn't really convey its size. The one on the right, the Stroh building, is by far the smallest but is still as large as the area used by many train shows.



The T-TRAK layout, a big E shaped arrangement, from opposite corners.



For the steel mill enthusiasts.



And if you are into coal mines...



There were several large scale layouts. These photos are from just one of them but they were all quite impressive.



There were several very large structures on some of the layouts. At left is a brewery and on the right is a passenger train station. Both are in HO scale.



There was even a clown to entertain the kids of all ages.



Here is our Fearless Leader being 3D scanned by miniprints. Soon you can buy a 3D printed Gordy in your favorite scale!

17th Annual

MODEL TRAIN AND CRAFT SHOW

PRESENTED BY: KANAWHA VALLEY RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

THE CHARLESTON COLISEUM AND CONVENTION CENTER

200 Civic Center Dr, Charleston, WV 25301



MARCH 11 and 12, 2023

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and

Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vendors, clinics and layouts!

ADMISSION: \$5.00; Children 12 and under free!

VENDOR TABLES - \$30.00; SPACE NO TABLE - \$20.00

Information: Joe Horter: (304) 539-6721 or Richard Boyd: (615) 319-9654;
also jhorter@gmail.com or kvrailroad@gmail.com

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\$6.00 PER PERSON – CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH AN ADULT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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

ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/March2023TrainShowTickets>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE





MODEL RAILROAD

SPRING FLEA MARKET & TRADE SHOW

Sponsored by Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA, Inc.

www.cincy-div7.org/events.html

Saturday, MARCH 11, 2023

10 AM to 3 PM

LAKOTA WEST FRESHMAN CAMPUS

5050 TYLERSVILLE ROAD

WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069

FEATURING LOCAL MODELERS & HOBBY DEALERS

\$7 ADMISSION \$3 YOUTH (11-15 years of age)

FREE under 10 years old TABLES \$20 (30 inches x 8 ft)

Table Reservations: rhord@fuse.net

All SCALES of Model Railroad Items, Videos and more

Don't miss this Model Train buy-sell-swap event!

"A model railroad trade show"

This event will be operated under all local, state and federal health guidelines in effect during the show. Masks are currently optional. If recommended, hand sanitizer will be available at multiple locations.



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

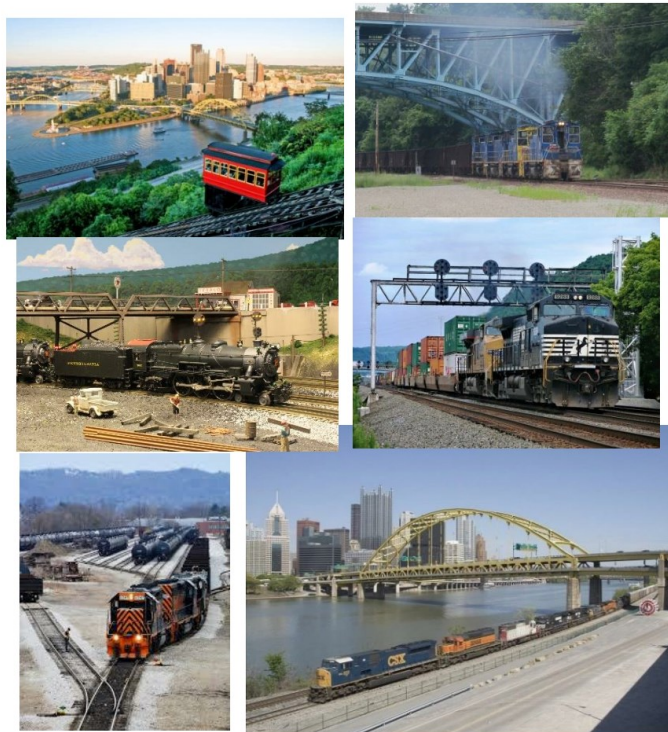
Pittsburgh Glass Factory Tour,
Card making, Jewelry,

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



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August 25-27

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CLINICS

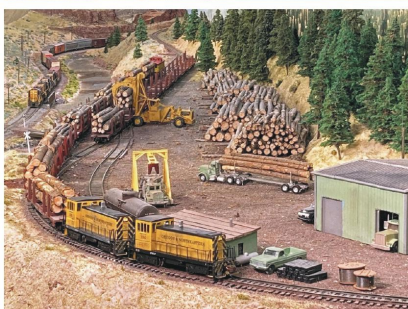
SIG ACTIVITIES

LAYOUT TOURS

OPERATION SESSIONS

CONTEST AND DISPLAY

FREEMO-N OPERATIONS



RAIL TOURS

Texo Grain Mill
 Private Railcars
 TexRail Back Shop
 Texas State Railroad
 Trinity Rail Car Plant
 BNSF Intermodal Yard
 Six Flags Railroad Shop
 Grapevine Vintage Railroad
 McKinney Ave Trolley Shops
 Trinity Tank Car Cleaning Plant
 BNSF National Operations Center
 Museum of the American Railroad
 BNSF Private Western Art Collection
 T&P, Santa Fe, & Dallas Union Stations
 Fort Worth & Western Railroad Back Shop
 Union Pacific Dallas International Terminal
 Light Rail & Commuter Shops (DART & TRE)

GENERAL INTEREST

George W Bush Library
 Fort Worth Stockyards
 Grapevine Wine Tour
 Sixth Floor Museum
 Fort Worth Modern
 Holocaust Museum
 Kimbell Museum
 Globe Life Park
 AT&T Stadium
 Dealey Plaza

NMRA *National Convention*
2023 TEXAS EXPRESS.COM



Midland Atlantic

Anthony Parrish, CEO
tony765@aol.com

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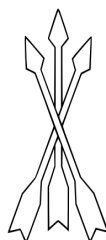
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CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
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puccinibaj@hotmail.com

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Ed Keith, MMR
 Assistant Superintendent
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John Harris, Chief Engineer
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Gary Burdette - Superintendent
 Point Pleasant WV



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ROBERT WEINHEIMER MMR
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25314-1041

Upcoming Coal Division Events

If you received this news-
letter via the US Postal
Service and have an email
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 11
In Person and Zoom

March 11
To Be Determined

April 8
In Person and Zoom