



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

October 2024

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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I hope that everyone had a great time at our September meeting hosted by Mark Maynard. If you were unable to attend, make sure to mark your calendar for next September. The yearly tradition at our September meeting has been to meet at Marks' house. On that day Mark not only opens his layout to us but also provides a cookout and gives us a place to host our meeting. This year was no different. Many Coal Division members started to assemble at Marks's before the meeting. Not only does this meeting give us a chance to carpool and spend time together, it also gives us an opportunity to operate on a layout we may not get the chance to on a regular basis. As in years past, Mark and his family provided a delicious lunch featuring BBQ and all the fixings you could want with it. Many thanks to Mark and his family for another great meeting.

A number of years ago, Gary Burdette started a program called the MADD program. As many of you remember, this stood for Models, Artifacts, Displays, and Discussions. MADD was an open forum to bring something and have a discussion about it. Judging by the name, you could bring just about anything. This could be a model you're working on or even something like an old timetable or photo and be given the floor to speak about what you brought. With everyone working on T-TRAK modules, this would be a great opportunity for feedback or for guidance if you are having any issues. Starting at the October meeting, I would like to again feature MADD as part of our regular meeting. Remember everyone has something they are working on or something interesting they could bring in to display at the meeting. While not in the immediate future, we should be looking ahead to a couple of upcoming events for T-TRAK. November 16th is Valley Con in Hurricane, WV. This is a one day show and would be a great opportunity to reach an audience that we normally would not. I am working with the organizers of this show with more details to come soon. The other event for T-TRAK is the Huntington Train Show Nov. 29, 30, and Dec 1st. While this a little later than normal, it still falls on the weekend of Thanksgiving. This has always been a really good show and I expect this year to be no different.

We will be back at the St. Albans Historical Society on October 12th for our monthly meeting. The October meeting will have a few things of note. While we had the mini clinic event scheduled, Matt Goodman of Division 6 will not only be presenting a mini clinic but also will be speaking about the 2025 MCR convention. For those who did not go last year, I would highly recommend going in 2025 as it is a ton of fun. If you were scheduled to give a mini clinic or have been considering doing so, please volunteer for the next one. This is great practice before giving a full clinic and many of our members can provide constructive feedback on your clinic. Second, we will have our monthly raffle. While we have never gotten rid of the raffle, we have had a couple of meetings lately that we did not have a raffle due to not being at our normal meeting spot. Tony Puccini always does a great job bringing us a great selection of items. The funds help offset the cost of meeting at the St. Albans Historical Society. Please be sure to purchase tickets for the raffle. Third, the contest for the October meeting will be open loads. Unlike some of our contests, this one is rather open ended. Basically any freight car load that is on a flatcar, gondola, or open hopper will qualify. If you have not entered the contest before or have many times over the years, this is an easy one to have an entry in.

I have one last thing for the October meeting and I saved this one for last. SACOM has been gracious enough to offer to host an operating session for us after the October meeting. Once our meeting adjourns, we will be making the brief trip a few blocks over to their clubhouse for an operating session. While there is motive power and rolling stock there, feel free to bring your favorite motive power and caboose. This was very kind of them so let's make sure to give them a good turnout.

The October meeting starts at 1:00 pm and doors open at noon. I hope to see all of you on October 12th. Don't forget to bring something for the MADD program.

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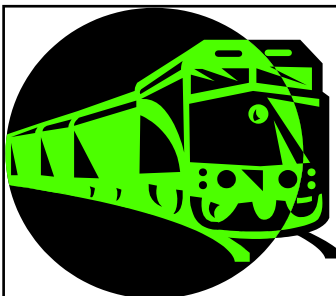
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

1:00 PM Saturday October 12

St. Albans Historical Society

Division Membership Meeting

Time: Oct 12, 2024 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82035501493>

Meeting ID: 820 3550 1493

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Open Loads**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Matt Goodman will tell us all about the next year's convention as well as present a short clinic.**

**Next Meeting
November 9**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION

Minutes

Mark Maynard's Home
West Portsmouth, Ohio

Introduction

Sam Delauter introduced a guest, Anthony Ferrebee

Last meeting minutes approved

Sam thanked Mark Maynard for his hospitality in hosting the meeting

Clerk

No report as clerk unable to attend meeting

Mark Maynard noted balance would be reduced by \$40 to pay for a portion of the food today

Superintendent report

Sam encouraged people participating in challenge to take progress pictures

Newsletter chair

Newsletter deadline is September 30

Achievement program

Randy Allio. continues to make progress on his Cars and Structures category, last certificate hoped to be complete by late October

Membership chair

5 shirts remaining for those interested – contact John Harris

Vendor issue has slowed delivery of new name tags, but does allow others to order if interested – contact John

T-Trak chair

Herb Parsons talked to the Altoona N Scale event – around 70 T-Trak modules there, several layouts, 50 vendors, and overall good turnout

One lesson was don't use expandable track on T-Trak modules

Discussion on type of switches to be used for T-Trak modules, information in Bob Osburn's manual, see Herb or Sam with questions, Sam has additional

straight track if needed to fit in a switch

Bob Osburn – mentioned good response from people working on the challenge, other groups may use the idea

Old Business

Valley Con in Teays Valley 11/23

Open for setup 8 to 9 that morning, event runs from 10 to 8. Sam has point, he will be there all day, welcomes others to join him.

New Business

Bob Weinheimer covered items from NMRA convention

Membership list as done today goes away in 1st qtr, Superintendent access part of new membership system.

New membership system will include subscription and auto renewal

Change in brochures coming

90th birthday of NRMA next year – Divisions encouraged to do events through the year, every division to do something on Labor day. Thought for Coal Division was to move picnic to labor day

Announcements:

10/26 – Club train show in Parkersburg

10/27 – Division 6 show in Cambridge Ohio

11/2 – Beckley train show

11/23 – Valley Con

Bill Stowe

Acting Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

I have a couple of recognitions this month.

First – I personally really appreciate Bob Osburn for bringing some books from Ed Keith's estate for sale at a very reasonable price. Over the past year or so I've started to begin educating myself on aspects of the railroad world, focusing on the histories of some of the larger railroads in our area. So I appreciate the chance to buy a bunch of books that are probably hard to find at a very reasonable price. Bob mentioned Ed had a very extensive collection. If he read a fraction of them, he must have been a very interesting person to talk to.

Second – wanted to recognize Sam Delauter's recent reach out to folks beyond our normal group. It was nice to see the SACOM members at the picnic and great for them to invite us to visit their layout. I had a chance to spend time

with Sam's guest Anthony at this month's meeting. I understand he has operated on Jerry's layout, and he seemed to learn quickly and enjoy his time on Mark's layout. Finally, exploring a different venue like Valley Con. Another of my many hobbies (too many hobbies, too little time) has been historical war boardgames. I have attended several venues similar to Valley Con, or events focused on miniatures gaming. There are some overlaps with our hobby to the point that Woodland Scenics has started a separate company over the last couple of years to service this market. Also, painting. While focused on figures and vehicles it is very active in this hobby. So I encourage folks to try something different.

CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

Here is a list of the remaining clinics for this year:

October- Instead of Mini Clinics we will have a guest Clinician. Matt Goodman will be with us to discuss the upcoming convention in Columbus. He will also do a Mini Clinic.

November- Adhesives - Bob Osburn

December- Memorial Challenge

As we discussed at the August meeting, we are looking for clinics for next year. Be prepared with suggestions at the October meeting please.

CLUB NEWS

Clubs within the boundaries of the Coal Division are welcome to submit items of interest for inclusion here. The next editorial deadline for this column is Monday February 26. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club
By Mark Suck

PARKERSBURG- The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is busy with preparations for its 29th Annual Fall Train Show on October 26 at West Virginia University's Parkersburg campus (Staunton Avenue/Rt. 47 exit off Interstate 77). Our 110 available vendor tables sold out more than eight weeks before the event. We will have our usual excellent array of vintage and new model railroad equipment, accessories and artifacts in HO, N, O, S and G scales available at the show, as well as our bucket prize drawing.

Some new attractions this year will be the availability

of On30 locomotives and rolling stock, a silent auction with lots of model railroad items, a layout in a suitcase and a new logging railroad homage to Cass, WV addition to the large O modular layout.

Show hours are 10 am to 3 pm. Admission is \$5 with you age 12 and under free. Plenty of free parking. Concessions will be available and the spacious, well-lit facility is fully handicap accessible and ADA compliant. MOVRC's Fall Train Show is the third-largest model railroad event of its kind in West Virginia.

T-TRAK

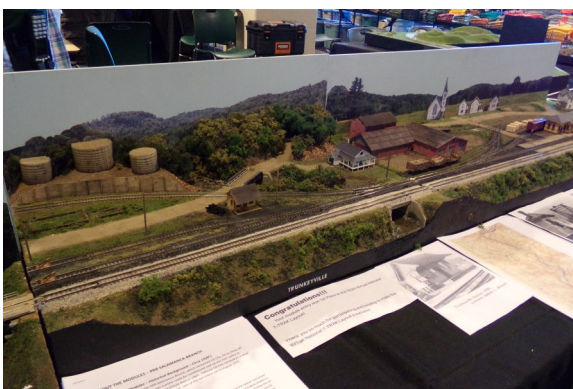
Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

Photos by Herb Parsons

On September 13, I drove up to Altoona, PA. for the N Scale Weekend sponsored by the Altoona Association of Model Railroaders. I took my 4 T-TRAK modules and joined with the combined T-TRAK layout for Saturday and Sunday. There were 4 other T-TRAK layouts, 3 N-Trak layouts, a Freeman layout and around 30 vendors, all

N Scale. After a electrical problem was corrected, the combined layout ran continually for the 2 days. It was open to the public and there was a great turnout.

Here are some photos of a few of the many modules that were displayed.



CONTEST

Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

No entries for photo contest to report. The October contest is open loads.

2024	Monthly Model Contest
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotives 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	Annual Memorial Modeling Challenge

Meeting at Mark's Photos by Herb Parsons



Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

Thanks to Mark Maynard for hosting us last month. I truly enjoyed switching the chemical plant as I am in planning stages for adding my own version of the Union Carbide plant in South Charleston in 1950. While it took me a while, mostly because I did not understand Mark's instructions on what to leave, what to take, and what to re-spot, but I did get the job done. (All my bad) Eventually I did return the proper cars back to the marshalling area and locomotives to the engine facilities without any injuries or deaths. I did forget to sound horns when approaching the crossing however, so it could have been bad. I also enjoyed the food and ice cream. I did go back for seconds on everything.

I have requests for additional name badges and have made the order. As it turns out, Fast Sign's engraving machine is down and they could not produce them before

our last meeting. But, that means I can still order additional name badges and not pay a premium. Please let me know if you are in need of one. They look real nice with the new shirts. All I need is your name and city to place an order. And speaking of shirts, I still have a few large and 2X shirts available. Contact me at member-ship@coalddivision.org if you are in need of either

This month's version of the Passenger Manifest will be a short one as I am getting ready to head out on Sunday 9-29-24 to Florida. Plan is to inspect storm damage and prepare for the next one. We will be there for the entire month of October so I will miss being at our October meeting in person. Hope to be able to join by Zoom. Plan is to be back for November meeting, so will see you then.

First Operating Session David Oliverio

On Saturday, September 28th I was pleased to host the first operating session of my N scale B&O transition era layout. A few months prior Don Cipolla, Sam DeLauter and Matt Kearns helped me with a limited "soft opening" session in which we operated some trains, tested the car forwarding system and solved problems. However, the September 28th session was the first true operating session of the layout.

Don Cipolla served as the Clarksburg yardmaster, Sam DeLauter served as the Grafton yardmaster while Herb Parsons and Anthony Farrabe operated various freight, coal and passenger trains. I was the host and dispatcher. We operated 11 trains and moved 216 cars. For car forwarding, JMRI Operations Pro switch lists were used.

The layout performed well with no significant electrical or mechanical problems. Don's diode matrix track selection circuits at the two staging yards were flawless and easy to operate. The layout wifi system supports a total of four wireless throttles. I have two Train Control Systems wifi throttles. For the other two throttles, mobile phones were used. Five people attended the session. In the future, perhaps a total of eight can fit the basement space comfortably with four people operating trains while the others observe or hang out in the lounge area.

Since it was the first visit for Herb and Anthony, I began the day with a brief orientation. Topics covered included layout setting, turnout operation at the staging, main line and yard areas, staging track selection, passing

sidings, N scale uncoupling, wifi, and the layout emergency electrical shut off switch. The orientation ended with an explanation of the two most critical elements, the rest room and the beverage refrigerator.

I am not yet knowledgeable enough to provide prototypical track warrants and orders for meets. Therefore, everyone kept an eye out for conflicts. With four long passing sidings equally spaced along the main line, we were able to operate without problems. In the future I hope to provide warrants and orders in a more prototypical manner.

Layout construction began in February 2020. Now four and a half years later it is wonderful to see the layout come to life. I hope to begin operating sessions on a regularly scheduled basis very soon. I often operate at Bob Weinheimer and Jerry Doyle's layouts. I am pleased to now add my layout to the list of Charleston/Huntington area operation sessions. Jerry typically operates each week, Bob operates monthly and I am considering operating two times per month. I like the idea of Division 9 members having multiple opportunities to attend operating sessions regularly. All the layouts are different and offer the visitor a wide variety of experiences. I encourage others to join the fun of operations. An operating session can be quite simple, complex or anything in between. It can be whatever the layout owner wants it to be.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this possible and I hope to see you at the next Op session.

Sixth Annual NMRA Division 6

Train Show

Cambridge Ohio

Sunday

October 27, 2024

10 am to 3 pm



Easy Access from I-70 and I-77

Pritchard Laughlin Center

7033 Glen Hwy

Cambridge OH 43725



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

Vendors Contact Greg - (740) 607-3223 - trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org

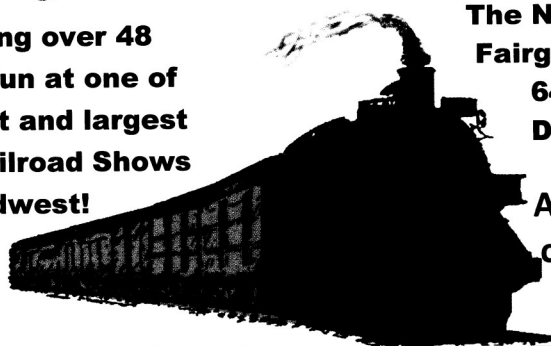


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Mail: Dayton Train Show

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Beavercreek, OH 45434

Phone: (937) 424-6413

VENDOR INQUIRIES ARE WELCOME

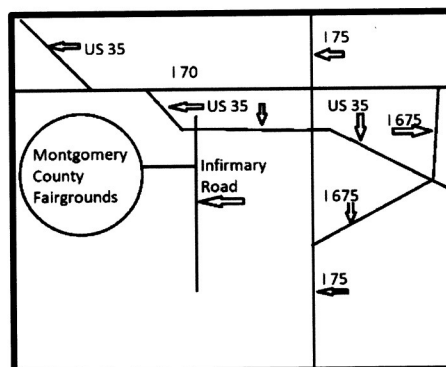
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09/29/23

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DIVISION 8 - MID CENTRAL REGION

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

ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/November2024TrainShowTickets>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



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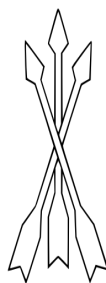
CRUSTY
MOUNTAIN
AND
WILOBY
SPRINGS R.R.

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CRESCENT VALLEY

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 tharris@va.net

(276)620-3493
 www.lakesidelines.com



Under Construction

A small N-scale layout of a fictional Appalachian branch line of the Chesapeake & Ohio set in the early 50s or late 70s.

Matt Kearns, Chief Engineer
 South Charleston, WV
 mattkearnswv@gmail.com

Alleghany & New River Road

An Appalachian Coal Hauling Railroad set in the 50's



Bringing a little bit of West Virginia to the rest of America
 a few tons at a time



John Harris, Chief Engineer
 AandNRR@aol.com



HINTON DIVISION

Gary Burdette - Superintendent
 Point Pleasant WV



NEW RIVER GORGE
SUBDIVISION

Clint Foster Superintendant
 Ronceverte WV

Upcoming Coal Division Events

October 12

**St. Albans Historical Society
In Person and Zoom**

November 9

**St. Albans Historical Society
In Person and Zoom**