



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

March 2024

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

The February meeting was once again well attended in-person but with very little interest in our virtual presentation. After our normal welcome and introductions, a short business session was conducted which included Division Clerk, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Chair reports. Several items were discussed during the new business session. One item in particular, our annual visit to Parkersburg "Steel is King Day" in May was of concern. Since the meeting I have contacted both Paul Lapointe and Dave Stout. It takes a lot of effort from both of these families to host our group and with Dave's health issues; they agreed it would be better to postpone this outing to a later date. We all wish the best for Dave and hope he can make a full recovery and we can return once again to Parkersburg.

Other changes were made at the February meeting. Randy Allio will assume the Chair for the Clinics in May and Mark Maynard and Don Cipolla will share the Chair for the contest. We really appreciate these gentlemen for assuming these positions and bringing new ideas to these very important aspects of our meetings.

As I mentioned earlier, we have not had great success with our virtual attendance. This deficit was discussed by Sam Delauter. This is an area where he as Superintendent with the help of Jerry Doyle has the knowledge to greatly improve our virtual ability. Since our Division covers a large area, we need to make sure those that would have to travel a great distance or are not able to attend in-person are included and welcomed in our meetings.

Randy Allio ended our meeting with an excellent clinic on "Special Hobby Tools". He had an excellent display showing and explaining different types of tools and construction techniques. Thanks Randy, that was a very interesting and informative clinic.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your participation and support. I hope to see you at the March 9th meeting!

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Vacant

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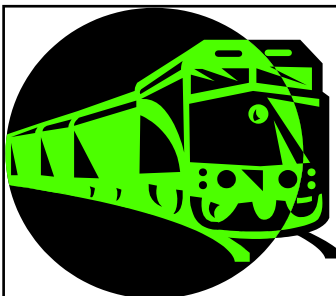
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday March 9

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88001214699>

Meeting ID: 880 0121 4699

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Locomotives Other than Steam**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Mark Maynard will show us how to repair troublesome cars, bring something from your railroad that needs his skills to fix..**

**Next Meeting
April 13**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION

February 10, 2024

St. Albans, WV

Minutes

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

Division Clerk Report

January minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$8,901.50.
 Company Store \$0.
 Raffle \$40.
 Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn thanked everyone for the card for his wife. He also updated members on Dale Osburn.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter brought up the topic of upgrading our audio equipment. Typically, we have 1-3 members attending online via zoom. Jerry Doyle noted that our current system doesn't handle zoom attendees interacting with the in-person group without audio feedback. Sam will report back on specifics, prices seem to be \$500-\$1,000.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of February 26 for the next newsletter. The address for contributions is editor@coalddivision.org.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer presented Jerry Doyle with the AP certificate for Electrical Engineering. Don Cipolla and Randy Allio are also close to having enough certificates to earn their MMR.

Library

Bill Wadsworth nothing new to report. The NMRA website has a wide assortment of current clinics and information.

Clinic

Today's clinic is *Tools of the Trade* by Randy Allio. Robert Osburn also presented a clinic on DCC EX and alternative lighting controllers. Most of the slots for 2024 have been filled. The March clinic will be *Rolling Stock Tune-ups* by Mark Maynard. For April we'll have four mini clinics. Bob Weinheimer and Jerry Doyle volunteered to do clinics on car forwarding systems. Tony Puccini will also be doing a clinic.

Contest

Today's contest is Steam Locomotives. Robert Osburn handed out participation certificates for the entries in the 2023 Modeling Challenge.

Membership

No report.

Raffle

Tony Puccini told members about today's raffle offerings.

T Track

Herb Parsons mentioned that the N Scale meet in Marysville, Ohio is the same weekend as the MCR convention. The 2026 national NMRA convention is planning to have the largest T-TRAK layout in history and is already soliciting participants. Jerry Doyle asked about plans for the 2024 Modeling Challenge modules. There was discussion about sourcing and funding of the modules.

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Robert Osburn brought up the need for new committee chairs for Contest and Clinic. Randy Allio volunteered for Clinic and Mark Maynard and Don Cipolla volunteered for Contest.

Jerry Doyle mentioned the Crescent Valley and Grafton & Greenbrier would be open for operations in the coming week.

Bill Stowe asked about progress on a plan to move the website to a new hosting location. Bob Weinheimer and Jerry Doyle will be working on this.

Matt Kearns commented on a new locomotive he saw recently, a CSX SD23T4, which is a rebuilt EMD SD40-2.

Announcements

MCR convention May 16-19.

Future Meetings:

March 9 – St Albans, WV
 April 14 – St Albans, WV
 May – Date to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

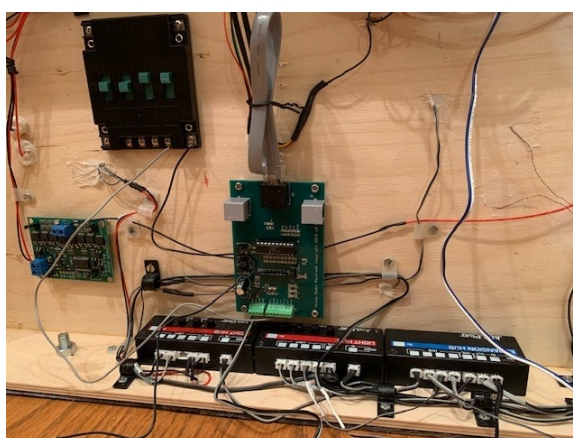
Over the months since the Huntington Train Show, I have felt extra invigorated to finish, and in some cases upgrade, my T-TRAK modules. I have a number of reasons for this which I will talk about in this article. Since I own quite a few modules, I have enough that I can make an 8' layout. While I don't have enough space to set them up as a full layout, I can setup the switching module and one or two smaller ones as a switching layout and then the rest as a small loop. This gives me a couple of options to run trains.

While my modules don't get moved very often, when they do I see how much of a mess my wiring is. While I haven't had an issue with the wiring yet, when I do it will be a challenge on some of my modules. I have spent a good bit of time going through and cleaning this up. A lot of this wiring was done hastily and if there was an issue arise, it would surely be at a show.

This leads me to my next point. I wanted to upgrade my modules to have lighting. The reality is if I were to upgrade to LED lighting on my modules, the old wiring would have to be cleaned up. For those of you who have added lighting to their modules or layout, you already know how quickly the real estate under your layout fills

up. For my modules I am using the Woodland Scenics Just Plug system. While this system is pricy, I am trading time for money meaning I am able to do this much quicker than if I had to wire everything and learn to calculate the values for dropping resistors. I am however shortening most of the wires. For those looking to add LED lighting to your layout, you may want to consider building a circuit board like Robert showed in his clinic or read the article in RMC this month. The Woodland Scenics LEDs will run about \$5.00 each and each module from Woodland Scenics start about \$20.00 each. This adds up quickly and can be done for much less. In the photo of the underside of the module, you'll see how quickly all of the lighting ate up the real estate. I am also starting to experiment with signaling on the layout. This adds more wiring including a circuit board. I also use frog juicers to power my switches. This is yet another thing to eat up space and further increase the need for tidy wiring.

With all of this said, the other reason that I am putting all of this work into my modules is I plan to use my modules for my Achievement Program scenery certificate. T-TRAK is a great medium to complete your certificate or to finish that last few feet that you need.



CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

At the February meeting, Randy Allio gave his clinic on tools. As we have come to expect, Randy's clinic will show us a side of modeling that we don't often see. His tool clinic was no different. Also at the meeting, Robert Osburn gave a clinic on building a DCC system and building a led lighting board. Many thanks to both of our clinicians.

Looking ahead, the March clinic will be by Mark Maynard on "Making Your Rolling Stock Operate Better". Make sure to bring your rolling stock that has been giving you trouble and Mark will help you get it up and running.

April will see the first of the Mini Clinic Events for 2024. Please see the clinic schedule for the clinicians.

March - Making Your Rolling Stock Operate Better - Mark Maynard

April - Making an Apple Farm - Tony Puccini
Automated Card Systems - Bob Weinheimer
Non-automated Card Systems - Jerry Doyle
Upgrading Woodland Scenics Trees - Randy Allio
May - Steel Is King
June - NMRA layout Tours, David Oliverio
July - Painting with Pastels, Randy Allio
August - Building a Prototypical Rolling Stock Fleet, Sam Delauter
September - Crusty Mountain
October - Mini Clinic Event
November - TBA
December - Memorial Challenge

MARCH CLINIC HOW TO FIX ROLLING STOCK ISSUES

Is your layout plagued by one or more cars that misbehave? Do you have some that constantly derail? Do you have some that lean and look they might tip over? Do you have some that won't stay coupled? Do you have some that squeak, squawk, and make noises when they

shouldn't?

If any of these apply to your rolling stock, bring it with you to the March meeting and let Mark Maynard work his magic to rid your cars of these ailments.

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

I received an e-mail from the Kanawha Valley Railroad Association concerning the 2024 model railroad show May 4 & 5 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. They would very much like to see us and our T-TRAK modules there. Please check your calendar

and let me know at the March meeting if you will be available to set up your modules at this show. I know this is only two weeks before the Mid Central Region convention in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, but I hope we all can make a good showing at Charleston.

BECKLEY TRAIN SHOW

Coal Division member Randy Mabry, a resident of Beckley, has sent a link that leads to the following information:

The Beckley Area Model Train Show will take place on Friday, April 19, through Sunday, April 21. It will be hosted at Retro Reset inside the Crossroads Mall.

The event will feature a host of vendors selling model train items and collectibles. There will also be model layouts.

Admission into the event is \$5 per person with kids 12 and under free, tickets are good for the entire weekend. There will be food available at the show as well.

The times of the show are as follows:

- Friday, April 19: 5 PM-9 PM
- Saturday, April 20: 10 AM-9 PM
- Sunday, April 21: 12 PM-4 PM

CONTEST
Robert Osburn
Photos by Herb Parsons

The February contest was Steam Locomotives. There were 4 very impressive entries. {

First Place was Anthony Parrish with his #701 Guyan Valley Railroad 2-10-2.

Second Place was Shay #1 by Randy Allio.

Also receiving votes were

Mark Maynard with his brass Pacific Fast Mail 2-6-6-2

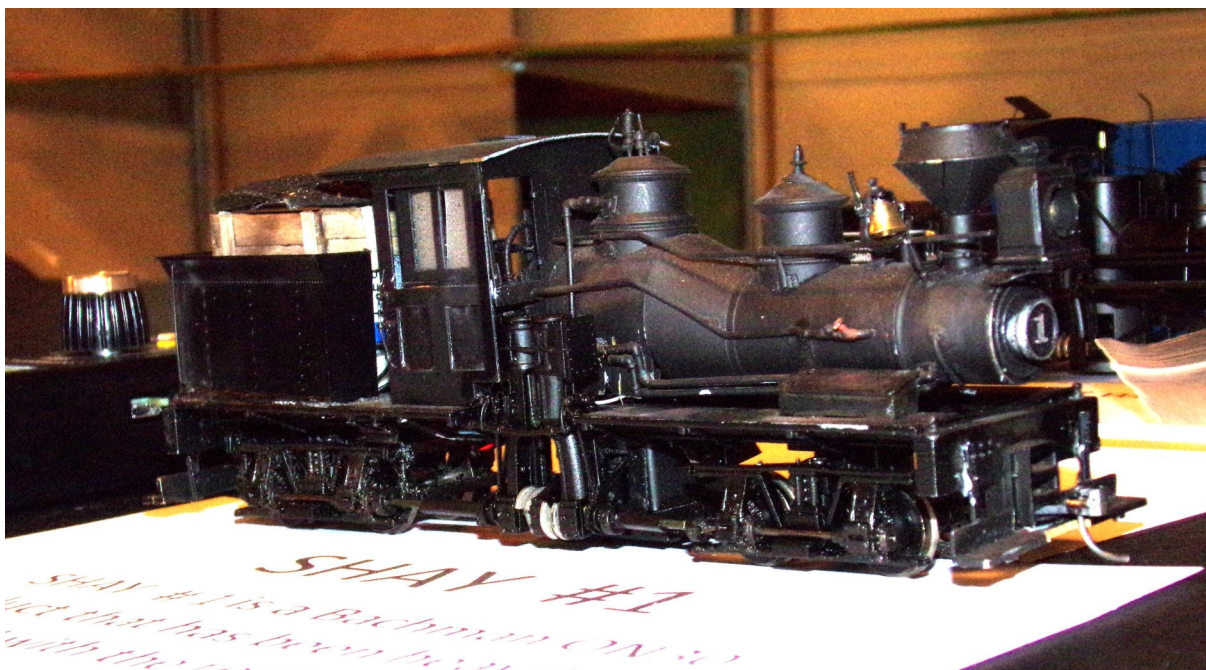
Matt Kearns with a Bachmann N-Scale 0-6-0.

For March, the contest will be "Locomotives Other Than Steam."

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	Eighth Annual Memorial Modeling Challenge



Anthony Parrish: A Bowser Locomotive Kit with brass tender, modified fire box, and cab. He added all the details to locomotive and added dog house and backup lamp to tender.



Randy Allio: Shay #1 is a Bachmann ON30 product that has been heavily modified with the replacement of the boiler and cab with a Wiseman brass 1890 Shay kit. A WOW sound decoder was installed along with CVP dead rail receiver and battery. A Bachmann Forney tender was used to give



Mark Maynard: Very old unpainted brass Pacific Fast Mail 2-6-6-2. These types of older brass locomotives are becoming very popular as candidates for motor upgrades and DCC conversion.



Matt started with an undecorated model. He painted and decaled the locomotive to represent a C&O unit. C&O had a few slope back 0-6-0 switchers in Columbus and Norfolk into the early 50's. This was his first attempt at painting, decaling, and weathering.

Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

I unfortunately had to miss our February meeting due to family commitments in Georgia. I wish I could have been there as I was really looking forward to Randy Allio's clinic. As stated in my last article, I really feel that our clinics represent one of the great member benefits of participation in NMRA. The Coal Division continues to offer some pretty good clinics and I look forward to more in the future. The clinic schedule put together by clinic chair Sam Delauter is looking pretty good. While we can enjoy and benefit from these on a local level, it is also important to remember that even more opportunities for "how to" education present themselves on the regional level. We are beginning to see information on the upcoming Mid Central Region Convention in Cleveland the 16th through 19th. Division 4 put on a pretty good event in 2014 (the National Convention) and looks to have a strong list of clinics for this convention. Keep in mind this is a short four hour drive from the center of the Coal Division. While the National Convention in Long Beach, CA will be exciting and offer even more educational opportunities, the distance and travel arrangements might prove a bit more difficult for some. I am sure some ride sharing opportunities to Cleveland will be available as we get closer.

NMRA and the Coal Division of course is not the only source available for railroad related clinics. Saint Albans C&O Modelers weekend is coming up later in March. This year's weekend will be held Friday March 22nd and Saturday the 23rd at Chief Logan State Park. Many Coal Division members are also part of the group but membership in SACOM is not required to attend. Clinics on tap include both modeling and general railroad operation but obviously focuses on the C&O. This year's presentations include C&O Consolidations, Signaling on Mike Burgett's Clifton Forge division, the Winding Gulf Connections to the C&O and C&O Passenger Service. There is also a to be determined presentation by our own Jerry Doyle. Cost is \$25.00 and registration can be made at www.sacomrr.org

I am continuing to investigate possible railfan trip to Sugar Creek, Ohio and the Age of Steam Roundhouse. Tours for the Roundhouse cost \$20 per person and offered 3 times a day with a more extensive tour available at \$75 each. More information will be coming with possible dates. Sugar Creek is approximately 2 1/2 hour drive from Charleston along I-77 just west of the New Philadelphia / Dover area. This is the Amish country so there are plenty of other activities and points of interest. Meanwhile, general information can be found on their website <https://ageofsteamroundhouse.org>

Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.



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Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

We make it even more fun.
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423-892-2846



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

In order to produce Up The Holler about ten days before the monthly membership meeting, editorial work starts the Monday of the week preceding the meeting. That works out the be the dates below by which I need articles for the first few months of 2024.

- April: April 1
- May: April 29
- June: May 27
- July: July 1
- August; July 18(early due to editor travel issues)
- September: September 2
- October: September 30
- November: October 28
- December: December 2

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 Suek

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club in downtown Parkersburg, WV welcomed 307 guests to its Louie Creel Memorial Open House on a snowy February 24. The theme of this event, formerly known as the Cabin Fever Breaker Open House, was Baltimore & Ohio and Chessie System trains in honor of the late Mr. Creel, who was a founding father of the club and a 42-year member. MOVIMRC offered a Lionel B&O Freight Set as the grand prize in a drawing and also conducted a drawing for a

large John King framed photograph of a B&O/Chessie train at Grafton, WV and a Chessie locomotive drawing by a local artist. MOVIMRC's HO group ran the late Mr. Creel's long caboose train and displayed photographs of his collection.

MOVIMRC's next event is the Harold Shive Memorial Open House on May 18. The theme for this open house will be Thomas The Tank.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

I recently hosted an operating session attended by three fellows from Louisville, one from northeastern Ohio, and a couple of locals. What did all of these gentlemen have in common? They are all NMRA members. Don't think I don't welcome those who are not NMRA members. It's just that I got to know all of these guys through NMRA membership. One of the member benefits we mention is fellowship and this is a perfect example of that fellowship.

Sure, a club can also offer fellowship. The NMRA, however, is a global organization and so it is easy to meet members from the next state over or much farther away. I once had a visitor from Perth in southwestern Australia.

Where is Perth? It's as far away as one can travel on this planet and still be on dry land. He was in the United States on a business trip and attended an MCR convention in Ohio. I met him there and he later came to my layout, the Grafton & Greenbrier, and I think one or two in Parkersburg. I doubt that would have ever happened without my NMRA membership.

This doesn't just happen, you do have to step forward and take advantage of what membership has to offer. Come to a meeting, meet the members, learn something from the clinic, and go home happy. Get what you pay for!

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRA

Bob Weinheimer, MMR®

Photo by Herb Parsons

At our last meeting I had the pleasure of presenting Jerry Doyle with this Achievement Program Electrical certificate. That is Jerry's sixth certificate and all he has to do to become an MMR® is to scratch build a few cars. But Jerry is not the only one in pursuit of that goal Don Cipolla has five certificates but just today as I was working on the newsletter he asked to have his last two evaluated. I think Don might beat Jerry to the big prize!

The Achievement Program is meant to be a learning experience. Give it a try, it can be very fulfilling to earn a certificate even if you have no desire to become an MMR®.



LAYOUT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

David Oliverio

Work continues on my proto-freelanced N scale double deck transition era layout. As most of you know, I model the B&O Railroad from Parkersburg, WV (staging) to Cumberland, MD (staging). Modeled towns include Pennsboro, Clarksburg and Grafton.

Most major landforms consisting of hills and mountains are in place and painted flat black. The landforms will be covered with trees later. Background scenery has been painted which includes distant mountains, hills, sky and clouds. The 245 ft. mainline is complete including red/green LED lamps to indicate mainline turnout positions. The four passing sidings located at Pennsboro, Clarksburg, Grafton and at the helix are complete.

Clarksburg industry sidings have been installed for National Carbon, Hazel Atlas Glass, Thompson Fuel Supply and the Clarksburg freight house. Other Clarksburg industrial sidings will be installed later. Industry sidings have been installed for Pennsboro Grocery Company, Pennsboro Feed Company and the Pennsboro freight house. At this time only one Grafton industry siding has been installed, Carr China.

The two reverse loop double ended staging areas are complete with each staging area consisting of a mainline outer loop track and six staging tracks. The reverse loop tracks are controlled by DCC Specialties PSXX-AR auto reverser circuit boards. These devices automatically reverse track polarity and power the Tortoise switch machine at the loop turnout which allows a train to traverse

the reverse loop uninterrupted.

Staging turnouts are operated by Tortoise switch machines. Route selection for each staging track is accomplished by turning a panel mounted rotary switch to select the desired track. Don Cipolla researched and built a diode matrix circuit board for each staging area that facilitates the route selection. With Don's guidance we installed the diode matrix boards last week and the system is working perfectly. Thank you, Don.

I am using Peco code 55 Electrofrog turnouts and Atlas code 55 flex track. Unfortunately, these two components are not compatible which requires me to fabricate three transition pieces of track for each turnout.

Currently I am installing track and turnouts for the Grafton yard.

Next steps:

- Install Clarksburg yard track.
- Install track for two coal mines near Grafton.
- Install additional industrial sidings at Clarksburg and Grafton.
- Setup JMRI Operations Pro and begin preliminary operations.
- Install Masonite fascia board.
- Begin finished scenery.
- Install structures.
- Install track ballast.



Overall Scene



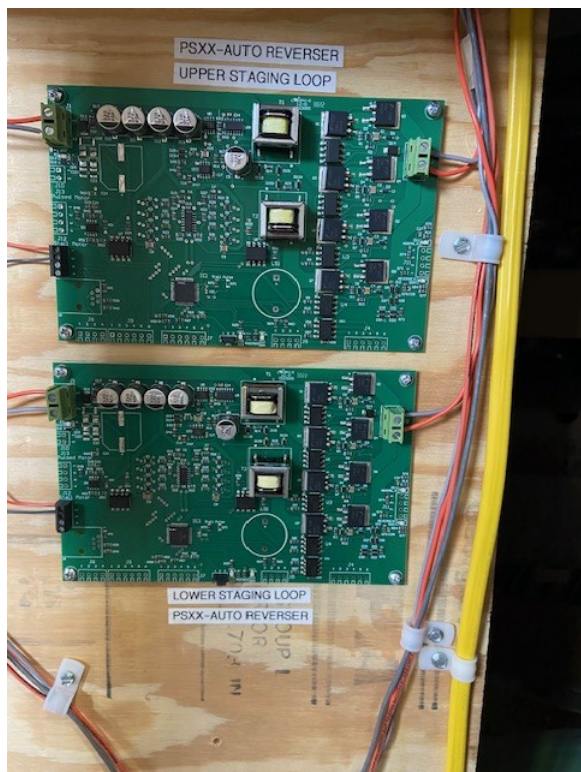
Land forms



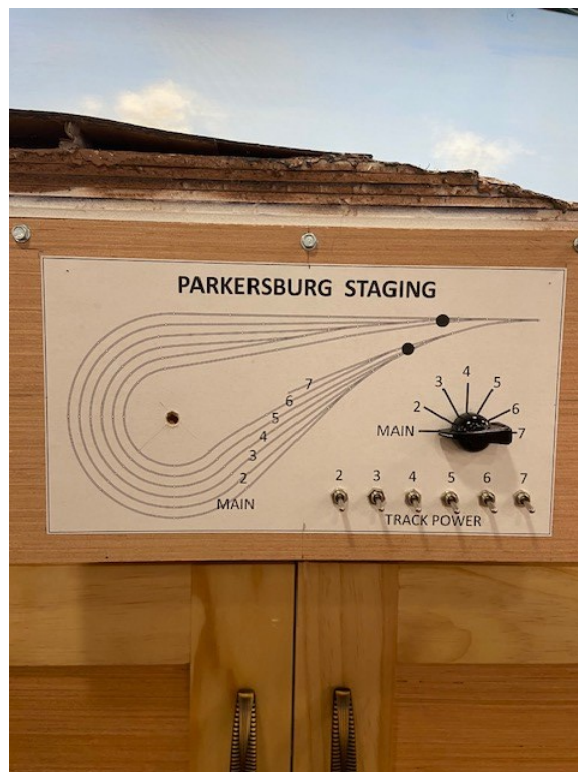
Painted Background



Staging



Auto Reverser Boards



Temporary Panel

The Mid-Central
Regional Convention
May 16-19 2024
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00
through 12/31/2023



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

Convention Merchandise

*The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's
apparel*

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

*Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)
Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,
Non-Rail Tours*

*More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.
Look for updates on the NCL site!*

*Many Restaurants
are located
within walking
distance of the
Crown Plaza
Hotel.*



Crowne Plaza Hotel

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(855)797-6733

**EARLY REGISTRATION
and MERCHANDISE PRESALE
IS NOW OPEN!**

*Register or print out
a registration form
online!*

www.northcoastlimited2024.org





Call for N-Scale T-TRAK Modules!

It's here! The call for N-Scale T-TRAK modules! It is for those N-Scale T-TRAK modelers who will be attending the North Coast Limited convention, hosted by The North Coast Division of the NMRA Mid Central Region. The convention will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio from May 16-19, 2024.

Let Us Know You're Coming!

<https://forms.gle/RkKrdTWxcZetGDUr6>

Useful Links

NMRA Mid Central Region, North Coast Division

<https://www.div4.org/>

North Coast Limited Convention

<https://northcoastlimited2024.org/>

T-TRAK Information

<https://ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Home>

T-TRAK Wiki

<http://ttrak.wikidot.com/>

Questions

If you have any questions, please send an email to both Ramhog Shearer ramhog5@aol.com and Frank Trocchia ftrocchi@yahoo.com.



2024 NMRA

NATIONAL CONVENTION



AUGUST 4 - 11

LONG BEACH, CA



WWW.SURFLINER2024.ORG

GET ON BOARD TODAY!





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Anthony Parrish, CEO
 tony765@aol.com

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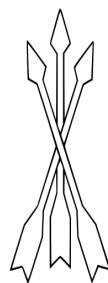
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

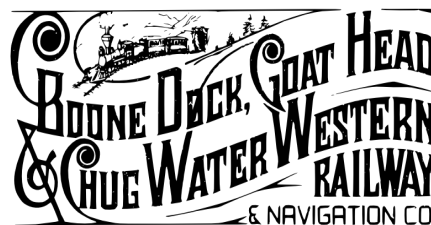


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The POSSUM HOLLOW Branch

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

March 9

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

April 13

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

May 11

Steel is King

May 16-19

**Mid Central Region Convention
Middleburg, OH**

June 8

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

July 13

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