



# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

December 2024

## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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The Huntington Train Show was held on November 29 and December 1, 2024. Once again the Coal Division was in attendance with our T-TRAK layout. Over the last year our layout has grown in size and was the biggest that it has been thus far. We even had several modules from the Memorial Challenge on display. Thank you to the Coal Division members that participated and made the event a success. At the December meeting we will be presenting our modules for the challenge. Keep working on your modules and if you need any help or have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to get help. Remember the main goal of the challenge is to learn something and try something new.

Our December meeting will be held at the St. Albans Historical Society. Since we will be presenting our modules, we will be starting early. We will also have some snacks and drinks on hand. If you signed up to bring something, please make sure to bring it. Since we will be presenting our modules, there will be no clinic or contest but we will still have the raffle.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I have several items from a past raffle. If you did not make it home with your winnings a while ago, please let me know. If no one claims these items, they will be put back in the raffle at future date.

While the December meeting will be held 1PM, we will open the doors at 11AM so that we have time to set up our modules. If you signed up to bring a snack or drink, please make sure to bring it and also bring an N scale train to run on the T-TRAK layout.

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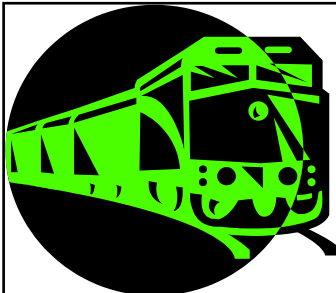
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## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

**11:00 AM Saturday December 14**

**St. Albans Historical Society**

### Division Membership Meeting

- 11AM to 1PM Challenge Setup
- 1PM Membership Meeting
- Welcome and Call to Order
- Treasurers Report
- Superintendents Report
- Assistant Superintendent Report
- Contest: Passenger Cars
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Raffle (always need new items)

**Next Meeting  
January 11, 2025**

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Historical Society

St Albans, WV

November 9, 2024

### Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Sam Delauter at 1:00 p.m.

#### **Division Clerk Report**

October minutes approved.  
Treasury Balance is \$9,327.50.  
Company Store \$0.  
Raffle \$67.  
Pike Ads \$0.

#### **Superintendent Report**

Sam Delauter opened the meeting at 1:00.

#### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

No report.

#### **Newsletter - Up the Holler**

Bob Weinheimer reminded everyone about the deadline is December 30 for the next newsletter. The address for contributions is [editor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org).

#### **Achievement Program**

Randy Allio's remaining certificates for his MMR should be evaluated the first weekend in December.

#### **Library**

No report.

#### **Clinic**

Today's clinic is Adhesives and Tapes by Robert Osburn.

#### **Contest**

Today's contest is Passenger Cars. There were three entries.

#### **T TRAK**

Herb Parsons mentioned plans for the Huntington Model RR Show in November. He asked any members who plan to participate to let him know. Setup is Friday at noon.

#### **Membership**

John Harris reported membership is steady at 44. Two new members attended today's meeting. We had 18 in attendance. We agreed not to have display for Huntington show. We did, however, agree to have display at the February show in Charleston.

#### **Raffle**

Tony Puccini had several items for the raffle today.

#### **Education**

No report.

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### **New Business**

Sam Delauter distributed a sign-up sheet for refreshments for the December meeting.

There was discussion about participation in the Charleston show in February.

#### **Announcements**

November 29 – December 1 Huntington Model Railroad Show. It was decided to not have a display table this year. Charleston WV RR Show – February 15

#### **Future Meetings:**

December 14 – St Albans Historical Society, setup at 11:00, meeting at 1:00.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Osburn, Acting Division 9 Clerk



## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

**Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent**

As I mentioned in the October newsletter, I was unable to attend the November meeting due to a family get together. As it turned out, I was at least with you in spirit. My nephew surprised me on that Saturday with a train ride, he had booked us on the Amtrak 'Pacific Surfliner' for a short trip from Santa Barbara to a small stop called Lompoc-Surf. It was a one way trip, the previous day he had left his car at Lompoc-Surf so we could continue our adventure by car.

The Santa Barbara station was a pleasant surprise. It was the original station that had been built in 1902, and renovated in 2000. It was built in what I would call a Spanish style with a red adobe type finish on the outside, and the inside with a mix of adobe, tile, and wood. The ticket office was very nicely done in wood. We got there early, so had a chance to explore the station and the area around it. There was an old passenger car there on what I thought might be a siding for freight to a depot behind the

station. It turned out the siding was used for privately owned passenger cars back in the day. People would park them by the station and live out of them to enjoy the Santa Barbara area. They were sort of an early RV!

The ride, while short, was enjoyable. It was my first Amtrak trip and I was pleasantly surprised with the on time departure, the overall condition of the cars, and the smooth ride. The scenery was spectacular. It is aptly named the 'Surfliner' as much of the trip was right along the ocean with great views of the ocean and the beaches. It covers much area that is inaccessible or hard to get to by car as it travels through private land like Hollister ranch, or government land like the Vandenberg Space Force Base (and also home to Space XI).

It was a great start to the day. We went up the coast to Morro Bay and stopped for some great local seafood and then made our way back to Santa Barbara. It was a fun day with the great company of my nephew.



## CLINICS

### Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

There will be no Clinic in December. Upcoming clinics are:

January: Jerry Doyle- Operations

February: Bob Osburn

March: Bob Weinheimer- Achievement Program

April Mini Clinic Event: Tony Puccini has volunteered to do a clinic and I will do an update to my tool clinic with new tools that I have found useful. I am looking for one more short clinic.

We also need clinicians for May and June.

## 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 December 30. Items can be sent to [editor@coalddivision.org](mailto:editor@coalddivision.org)

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club  
By Mark Suek

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is celebrating the holiday season with two events at its Parkersburg, WV facility. The annual Christmas Open House is set for Saturday (December 7) from 10 am to 6 pm as part of the Downtown PKB organization's Winter-fest celebration. MOVIRC will be giving away a Lionel

Polar Express O scale train set in recognition of National Lionel Trains Day. A second open house is set for December 15 (3-7 pm) in conjunction with a visit by Belpre Industrial Parkersburg Railroad's Christmas Train with Santa and Mrs. Claus aboard. The BIPR locomotive will be parked on tracks right outside the club.

## 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 to be the dates below by which I need articles for the coming year.

- January 2025: December 30, 2024
- February : January 27
- March : February 24
- April : March 31
- May : April 28
- June: June 2
- July: June 30
- August: July 28
- September: September 1
- October: September 29
- November: October 27
- December: December 1

## CONTEST

### Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

The contest category for November was Passenger Cars. Three entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Paul Lapointe – Doodlebug  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sam Delauter – PRR PBM70  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Bob Weinheimer – Pennsylvania Southern Executive Train

The December contest category is: Memorial Challenge. The January contest category is: Modelers Choice.

2025	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



Paul Lapointe's  
Doodlebug



Sam Delauter's  
PRR PBM70



Bob Weinheimer's  
5 car executive train,  
cropped to two cars to  
save space.

## T-TRAK

### Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

November 29 - December 1, the Appalachian Model Railroad Society held the annual model railroad show at the Huntington Civic Center. The Coal Division's T-TRAK set up a layout for the show. Six members brought 24 modules and we set up in a T shape. We re-

ceived great comments from the public.

The AMRS said that by the end of the show Saturday, they had 900 paying adults.



## My Word

### Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Thanks to some Thanksgiving travel and other obligations I was unable to attend the train show over that weekend. It sounds like I missed a good one. I am looking forward to our December event..

The coming year is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the NMRA. Plans to celebrate this event are being formulated from the Nation to Division levels. Regions and Division s are encouraged to do something to cele-

brate the event over the Labor Day weekend, the dates of the NMRA's founding.

Should we consider moving our August picnic to that time? Is there something else we might do to celebrate? NMRA President Gordy Robinson is sure to have other ideas for us to consider in an upcoming column in the NMRA Magazine, let's see what he has to say!



## Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2024 and ready to welcome in 2025. It seems like only a few months ago we were at Diehl's in Nitro showing off our vintage freight car kits. And now, here we are getting ready to present our T-TRAK modules. What is even more difficult to wrap my head around is that it has now been a quarter of a century since we welcomed in the new millennium.

On that scary note, I am still looking forward to seeing what everyone has done with their modules. I am sure there will be some that took a basic approach and concentrated on making for flawless operation. Others will take a more aesthetic approach and spend more time on scenery. Still others may take a direction that includes lighting and electronics with perhaps a bit of animation. Actually, I will not be surprised if a few will include a little of all the above.

Having modeled HO scale all my life, I have a better appreciation for those of you that chose N scale to do their modeling. After building and detailing a craftsman kit in N and assembling and painting a couple of simple plastic kits, I can better understand the patience, eye sight, and steady hands required for the smaller scale. I cannot

even imagine working in Z scale.

The bottom line is we should be able to use these modules to showcase a variety of skills and interests. I am excited about their addition to the current T-TRAK modules and how they can further interest in the hobby. I see them as great tools to plant seeds to newbies, regardless of age.

I am looking forward to seeing these all combined for the Kanawha Valley show in February. I am sure these will become a great educational opportunity and potential recruitment tool. Combined with the possibility of staging some mini clinics or demonstrations, the Coal Division should be able to make a considerable contribution to the quality of the show.

In January, I will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to man both the display and the T-TRAK modules. I encourage everyone to participate in some capacity. It is a great opportunity to reach out to the public and let them know how passionate we are about the hobby. Hopefully, this passion is infectious and young and old alike can become involved. After all, newbies are the future of the hobby.

See you soon.

## 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.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).  
Then improve your  
skills. And your hobby.



**We make it even more fun.**  
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NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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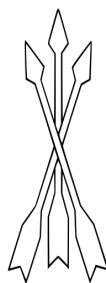
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 AND  
 WILOBY  
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**Mark Maynard, President**  
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**The  
 POSSUM  
 HOLLOW**  
 Branch

**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**  
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**HINTON DIVISION**

**Gary Burdette - Superintendent**  
 Point Pleasant WV



**NEW RIVER GORGE  
 SUBDIVISION**

Clint Foster Superintendant  
 Ronceverte WV

## **Upcoming Coal Division Events**

**December 14**

**St. Albans Historical Society  
In Person**

**January 11**

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

**February 8**

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

**March 8**

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

**April 12**

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

**May 10**

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