



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

February 2025

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

I hope everyone is safe and warm. It looks like everybody's life has been a bit crazy so far with all of the snow. Among the many things that the snow has affected was our January meeting. Due to health and safety concerns, our leadership made the decision to move the meeting to virtual only via Zoom. I'd like to thank the division for their willingness to make this last minute change and for making this meeting run smoothly. For those who did not attend via Zoom, please reach out to our leadership if you are having technical difficulty so that you do not miss the next virtual meeting. While we do not have any intention to move the meeting to virtual only, it is a great tool to have in our pocket for situations like this.

The Kanawha Valley Railroad Association's annual train show will be held February 15-16, 2025 at the Charleston Civic Center. As previously discussed, the Coal Division will be in attendance with the T-TRAK layout and the NMRA booth. The Civic Center will open for setup at noon on the day before the show. T-TRAK will be setting up at noon that day and John Harris will be setting up the display around 4:00 pm. John will have a sign up sheet at our February meeting. Please consider taking a time slot to help man the booth. Also if you have time, we would love to have you run on the T-TRAK layout. If you would like to run but do not have any n scale, there will be trains available to you. The KVRA train show is the first of two shows that we attend each year. The shows are always a great opportunity to spend time with our fellow members and also to reach out to the general public. The booth and T-TRAK are always very popular with the public. I hope to see all of you there and see all of the great things you find at the show.

While not in the immediate future, the 90th anniversary of the NMRA will be later in the year. As we get closer to that date, we will be discussing our celebration of this event. Please be brainstorming ideas so we can make this event a success.

Our next meeting will be February 8th at the St. Albans Historical Society. The meeting will start at 1:00PM and the doors will open at noon. At the meeting, Robert Osburn will be giving a clinic on "Printing Signs On Tissue Paper", we will have the monthly raffle, and the contest will be "Steam Locomotives". I look forward to seeing each of you at the February meeting.

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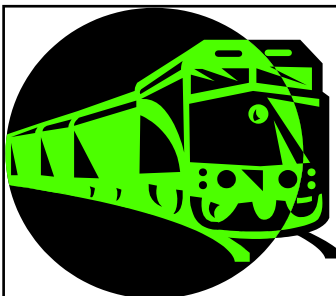
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

1:00 PM Saturday February 8

St. Albans Historical Society Division Membership Meeting

Topic: Zoom Meeting
Time: Feb 8, 2025 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84827018893>

Meeting ID: 848 2701 8893

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Steam Locomotives**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Clinic: Robert Osburn will deliver a clinic titled "Printing Signs on Tissue Paper".**

**Next Meeting
March 8, 2025**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

On Line Meeting January 11 2025 Minutes

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

Division Clerk Report

December minutes approved.

Treasury Balance is \$9,385.50. Upcoming expenses; \$73.15 reimbursement to Sam for picnic supplies.

Company Store \$0.

Raffle \$0.

Pike Ads \$50.

Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter commented on the "big year" of 2024. He thanked everyone for helping to make 2024 a successful year. He also mentioned Robert Osburn for his work in putting together the Memorial Modeling Challenge. Sam also recognized Randy Allio for recently earning his Master Model Railroader Award.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bill Stowe suggested exploring the NMRA webpage (nmra.org) as a New Year's resolution. Going forward the website will grow in importance. He offered to help anyone experiencing issues with this. Bill specifically mentioned the information on the website concerning the achievement program, which Bob Weinheimer will be talking about at our March meeting. Bob suggested having a clinic exploring the website at a future meeting.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of January 28 for the February newsletter. The address for contributions is [edi-tor@coalddivision.org](mailto:editor@coalddivision.org). Bob recognized Don Cipolla for his work in thoroughly proofreading the newsletter.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer mentioned the Division's extremely high participation in the achievement program. Division 9 represents 3% of the MCR membership. In 2024 the MCR awarded three MMRs, two of them were to Division 9 members. He also noted that there were 36 certificates of achievement in the MCR in 2024, twelve were from Division 9. There were 76 merit awards in 2024, 11 of these were to Division 9 members. Bob mentioned that Jerry Doyle only needs to scratch build four cars to be considered for his last certificate to earn an MMR. There was extensive discussion about Ed Keith and his projects in earning his MMR. There have been almost 800 MMRs awarded in total. Often members have previous work that puts them well on their path once it is documented. The topic of scratch building was discussed as our 2025 Memorial Modeling Challenge.

Library

No report.

Clinic

Today's clinic is *Model Railroad Operations, An Exploration*

by Jerry Doyle. Only a few of the slots for 2025 have been filled, if you have something to share let Randy Allio know. . Next month will be a discussion about using tissue paper signs by Robert Osburn. In March we will have a discussion of the NMRA Achievement Program by Bob Weinheimer. April will be several min-clinics. May may possibly be an exploration of the NMRA website. There was discussion about a potential meeting in Parkersburg in May.

Contest

Today's contest is Modeler's Choice.

Membership

John Harris noted that membership has declined slightly. Current membership is 42. There will be a signup sheet at the February meeting for manning the booth and conducting clinics at the Charleston Railroad show on February 15 and 16.

Raffle

No raffle today.

T Track

Herb Parsons discussed participation in the Charleston Railroad Show. He also mentioned the Ohio N Scale Weekend at the Marion County Fairgrounds in Ohio. The meeting is the same weekend as the MCR convention. There was some discussion about the fact that this show always coincides with the convention. Sam discussed Division 9 participation in the MCR convention this year.

Education

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bill Stowe mentioned the upcoming 90th Anniversary of the NMRA and making our August picnic an event to observe the anniversary. There was also discussion about recognizing past Division 9 members in coordination with this anniversary.

Announcements

Mid Ohio Valley Model RR Club Open House February 22, 2025.

KVRA Charleston Train Show February 15 and 16 at the Charleston Civic Center.

Future Meetings:

February 8 – St Albans, WV

March 8 – St Albans, WV

Meeting adjourned at 2:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

My first item for this month is something that Sam Delauter noted in his column but I believe to be worth mentioning again. I talked about our celebration of the NMRA's 90th anniversary in last month's virtual meeting. One important new piece of information is that the original desire from the NMRA president to celebrate on Labor Day has been relaxed to allow us to pick our own date. So it becomes much simpler (to my mind) to potentially leverage our August picnic to celebrate this occasion. How we chose to do that (or if we chose to do that), we can discuss at future meetings.

My second item is a continuation of my encouragement for you to leverage the NMRA website. During the virtual meeting it was suggested this be a topic for a clinic, which I volunteered to conduct. In thinking about it since then, I'm going to try using it as a topic for the newsletter.

If that generates interest or discussion, I'd be glad to do a clinic on it at some point.

My interest in the NMRA website is a little self-serving. Two years ago, when I first started to attend meetings, I would have said my level of model railroading could be best described as 'I don't know what I don't know'. Two years later, with help from many of you, I find that I'm starting to generate a list of specific areas or questions that I want to learn. I will continue to leverage many of you to help answer these, but I also want to start to search a broader field for answers on my own. So my monthly articles on the NMRA site will be around searching for answers on specific questions. I will also compare to other sources out there, such as YouTube and results from website searches. There is more to come.

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

Aa a reminder, the KVRA Train Show is the weekend of February 15 & 16, the week after our meeting on February 8th. Let me know if you want to include your T-TRAK module in our layout by the meeting..

I had a phone call from Bruce DeMaeyer concerning the MCR convention in Columbus. He is organizing the T

-TRAK layout for the convention and would like to have 40 or more modules for the layout. If you are planning on attending the convention, consider bringing your T-TRAK module.

CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

February. Bob Osburn Printing signs on tissue paper.

May. Need a volunteer.

March. Bob Weinheimer. Achievement Program.

June. Need a volunteer.

April. Mini Clinics

July. Randy Allio Using modern scenery materials.

1. Tony Puccini. 3d Clouds
2. David Oliverio to be announced
3. Randy Allio. More tools of the trade.

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 coming year.

- 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

Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

It was good to see a reasonable turn out to our virtual meeting in January. It had been a while since we had done one of those. All seemed to go well and Jerry's presentation came off flawlessly. As a matter of fact, having it on my computer screen was better than viewing from an in room projection screen. Certainly much sharper images than would have been if in person. Still, I miss seeing all the guys and greeting them in person.

Again, congratulations to Randy for reaching Master Model Railroader status. I understand that there is at least one other Coal Division member that is close and there may be a few more that need to get it in gear and get some paperwork completed with some models judged to also join these ranks.

One of the discussions at the meeting was to investigate having an identification plaque for each of the T-TRAK modules that included the name of the modeler and identifying then as members of Division 9. After looking at some options, the leadership of the division agreed we should proceed with this particularly since one of the options I presented was a zero cost option. Generally we agreed that the design was basically to replicate our name badges but printed and mounted on illustration board rather than engraved on plastic. The tweak was to offer space for the modeler to identify the location or title for their module. Plaques will be approximately 3 1/4" x 1 1/2". Below is an example of the design with the titles.

I will have a sign-up sheet available at the Febru-

ary meeting for those wanting either plaque. If you are planning to include your module or multiple modules in the KVMRA show on the weekend of the 15th and 16th and will not be at the meeting, please email me with the content and quantity of plaques needed before or right after the meeting. AandNRR@aol.com I will need time to print and mount these so they will be ready for set up on Friday the 14th.

Additionally, I will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting for anyone interested in taking a turn at manning the Division Display. I will also include space on the sheet for volunteers that plan on providing a demonstration or mini clinic if you will, at the table adjacent to the booth. I am planning to assemble and weather a craftsman kit while manning the booth and I encourage others to consider doing the same. It is a good way to start a conversation promoting the hobby and it helps to pass the time. I know Randy Allio plans to do some demonstrations on Pan Pastels during that time. I suspect there will be some time for a "live rail" demonstration while he is there. Others are encouraged to participate. Besides, it may help you get closer to one of those goals you have for your layout in 2025. If not willing to do a demonstration, please consider manning our booth as it and the T-TRAK modules will all be side by side.

Keep modeling and hope to see you at the February meeting.



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@coaldivision.org

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club
By Mark Suek

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club's Board of Directors completed its annual review of the Rules and Regulations and established the Schedule of Events for 2025 at its January Meeting. MOVRC's first event this year is the annual Louie Creel Memorial Open House on February 22, from 10 am to 4 pm, at the club facility in the rear basement of NOE Office Equipment at 610 Green Street in downtown Parkersburg, WV. The late

Mr. Creel was one of the founding fathers of the club in 1981 and was a long-time officer and valued contributor. Prizes at the open house will be a nice piece of CSX framed art and an HO scale train set. Also, MOVRC has in place a new process in place to more effectively address potential new members. MOVRC's roster now stands at 68 strong.

CONTEST

Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

The contest category for January was Modeler's Choice. Four entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1st place: Don Cipolla – V&T Virginia City turntable

2nd place: Paul Lapointe – Steel Blast Furnace Cast House Animation

3rd place: Bill Stowe – Shaws Ridge Supply

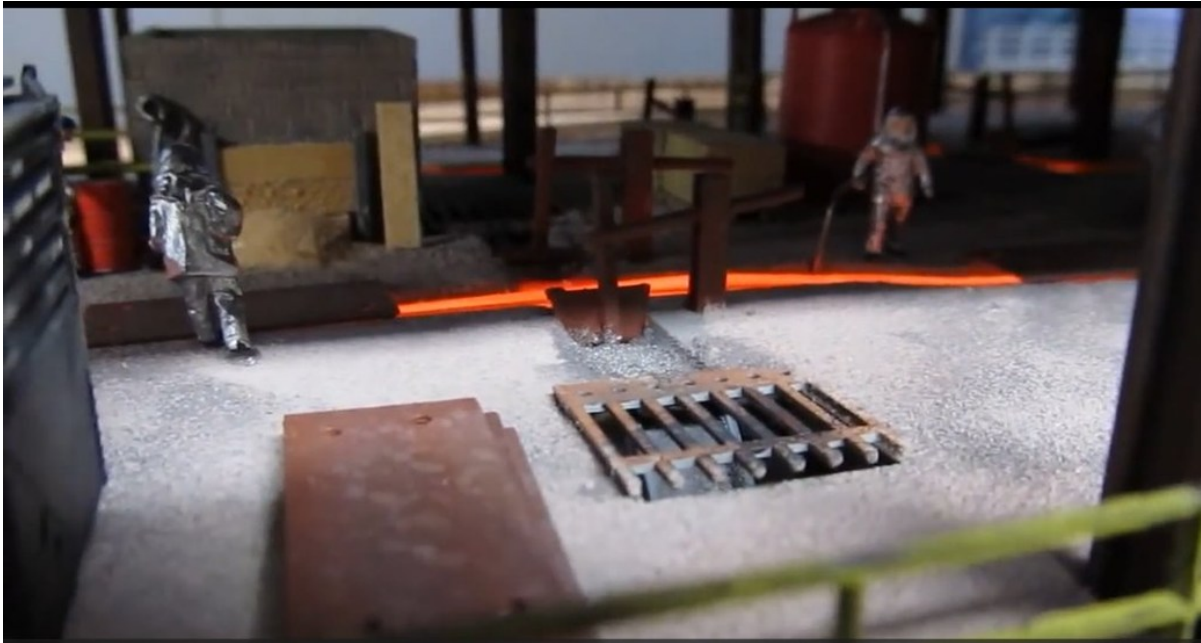
The February contest category is: Steam Locomotives.

The March contest category is: Locomotives Other Than Steam.

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



Don Cipolla's V&T Virginia City turntable in HO Scale



Paul Lapointe – Steel Blast Furnace Cast House Animation (HO scale)



Bill Stowe – Shaw's Ridge Supply (N scale)

Leveraging the NMRA website Part 1

Bill Stowe

So full disclosure. Am I an expert on the NMRA website? Heck no. I've used it three times. First to see what was available on what an Assistant Superintendent was supposed to do. Second was to pay my annual dues for 2025. And the third and last time was to begin to explore what the Achievement Program was all about.

Overall I find the website full of information. Having said that, the downside is that it can be a challenge to find exactly what you want. So my first piece of advice would be to plan to take some time to explore it, otherwise frustration can quickly set in. I have yet to explore how effective the site's search engine is.

For this article, I'm going to talk to what I've seen on the Achievement Program. This is of personal interest, not from any desire or belief that I will complete the Achievement Program and qualify as an MMR®. That is as likely as any of you seeing ads for 'Swine Air' flights out of Yeager Airport (in other words, when pigs fly). I see the Achievement Program as a guide to help me grow my skills as a model railroader.

The basics of the Achievement Program, the categories and the requirements by category, are easy to find and easy to walk through. They contain good clear detail on what the expectations are, with links for the forms to support and for further information. For myself, I like that it

shows me areas to explore and challenge my skills that I may not have thought of. Cynthia Priest's articles in the NMRA magazine on her adventure to becoming an MMR® have also being a great motivator for me.

The only area that I would like more information on is the documentation requirements. While it lists what is required, a few examples would be nice. I have heard comments that the documentation requirements are a negative, but I tend to look at this differently. Unlike most of you, I am in the 'steep learning curve' of model railroading. So the documentation portion I view as a great way to capture my learnings on what did and didn't work on various topics.

The final challenging area, to my mind, is the requirement to have some models earned a score of a least 87.5 points in a NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Award evaluation. My first reaction to the contest at this past summer's regional conference would say the NMRA sponsored contest is very challenging. I'm not sure exactly what is entailed by the AP Merit Award evaluation, I need to talk to our MMR®s about this.

I look forward to Bob's clinic in March. I encourage you to take a moment to look at the material on the website to come up with some great questions for Bob!

RPM-East prototype modeler event in metro-Pittsburgh, PA

Eric Hansmann

RPM-East Publicity and Web Guy eric@hansmanns.org

The 2025 RPM-East returns to the Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, PA, March 21 & 22! The location of our long-running railroad prototype modeler meet is just 40 miles southeast of downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Make plans to rekindle your modeling efforts!

Thirty-eight modelers and historians are scheduled to speak at RPM-East. Many presentation titles have been posted to the RPM-East website. A tentative presentation schedule will be posted to the website in late February.

Early bird registration is only \$40 (until February 28th). RPM-East is sponsored by Division 2, MCR-NMRA. Registration forms, presentation details, op session layouts, and participating vendors can be reviewed at the RPM-East website:

http://hansmanns.org/rpm_east/index.htm

There will be plenty of action over March 21 & 22.

- two days of prototype and model presentations
- a large display room to share your modeling efforts and learn new techniques
- a variety of vendors selling goods for prototype modeling
- Thursday operating sessions on local model railroads
- Sunday model railroad layouts to visit

There are several hotel options in nearby New Stanton, PA, just off of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. This Google Maps link can help you find lodging: <https://goo.gl/maps/Kf55KEzfHJSMmaEV7>

Gather your models and make plans to attend the 2025 RPM-East prototype modeler event in Youngwood, PA!

My Word

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

The February issue of this newsletter is a day late as I returned on the normal editorial deadline date from the big train show in Springfield, MA. The weather was great, the trip north was very cold but dry. The return was a bit warmer and equally free of snow. It was cold during the time in Springfield, something the folks from Australia had difficulty handling. Some of them live in tropical areas that never experience winter but for others it was a trip from summer to winter. Of course, they all spoke in Centigrade while we speak in Fahrenheit. In case you are wondering, the two scales are the same at minus 40, a temperature cold to anybody.

That show was awesome as usual. The aisles were so crowded Saturday it was almost hard to move. I bought very little as I have about as much stuff as I need at this point but I saw lots of folks toting incredible quantities of merchandise. I still can't comprehend all the exhibits, they cover 350,000 square feet or about 7 football fields.

Scale Trains announced a new series of SD9 and SD7 locomotives. Virtual Railfan is also coming out with an app for Roku and similar devices that will allow them to use some 4K cameras that won't be dumbed down by YouTube. There were many more announcements, you can read about them in the hobby press.

At the NMRA booth the 90th anniversary celebration started. We were right across the aisle from Soundtraxx who were celebrating their 35th anniversary. In another building Lionel was celebrating their 125th anniversary. This year seems to be a big year for round number anniversaries in the industry.

In his article about the NMRA website, Bill Stowe focused on the Achievement Program. At the its meeting Friday, the NMRA Board of Directors approved a change to the Model Railroad Author certificate. More types of self published information are now permitted although material not subject to editorial review is still limited to half the points required to earn the certificate. Also, the number of words that define a page was reduced from 1200 to 800. The Board of Directors also approved a large number of standards that mostly related to Layout Command Control.

As the meeting closed, Atlantic District Director Mike Arnold was named an Honorary Life Member, the NMRA's highest honor. Mike has a long history of service to the NMRA from his roles in the British Region to the National Organization. This was a well deserved honor.

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.
Then improve your
skills. And your hobby.



We make it even more fun.

www.nmra.org
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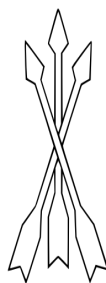
CRUSTY
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AND
WILOBY
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Under Construction

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

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**