



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

March 2025

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

The February Coal Division meeting was once again held at the St. Albans Historical Society building. Once again we had a great raffle, contest, and clinic. Robert Osburn gave a two part clinic on "Printing Signs On Tissue Paper" and a clinic on tools you can buy from Temu. Much of the rest of the meeting was discussion on the KVRA train show however I would like to mention that our meeting in May will once again be in Parkersburg. We got word that the annual Steel Is King event is back on this year. There will be more details to come as we get closer to this event.

The KVRA train show was held February 15th and 16th with setup the day before. The Coal Division was in attendance with both the T-TRAK, the NMRA booth, and a table for Randy Allio MMR® to give demonstrations. We had a good turnout of our members there to not only run the layout but also to staff the booth and to talk to the general public. I would like to thank all of the Coal Division members that were in attendance for helping make this event a success. Whether you ran on the layout, spent time at the booth, or anything else, we could not do this event without you. I hope to see this continue as we are able to get more people involved at future shows. As for the show itself, attendance on Saturday seemed to be pretty good with a lot of visitors to our area. However on Sunday, the weather was very bad and made it hard to attend the show. Despite this, our membership seemed to have a great time over the course of the weekend. Although I was quite busy, I did have a really good time at the show and a great time with our membership.

The March Coal Division meeting will be held March 8th at the St. Albans Historical Society Building. Doors open at noon and the meeting starts at 1:00 pm. The contest will be "Locomotives Other Than Steam" and clinic will be on the Achievement Program by Bob Weinheimer MMR®. I hope to see you all there.

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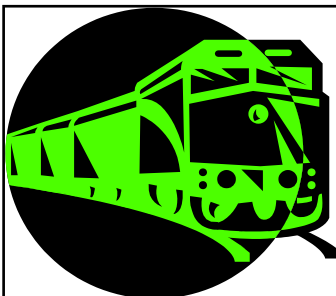
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

1:00 PM Saturday March 8

St. Albans Historical Society

Division Membership Meeting

Time: Mar 8, 2025 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85266297000>

Meeting ID: 852 6629 7000

- **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: Bob Weinheimer will discuss the NMRA Achievement Program**

**Next Meeting
April 12, 2025**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
On Line Meeting
February 8, 2025
Minutes

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

Division Clerk Report

January minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$9,385.50.
 Company Store \$0.
 Raffle \$41.
 Pike Ads \$60.

Superintendent Report

Sam mentioned that a more expedited method of using the St Albans Historical Society building is now in place. This should alleviate waiting for the building to be opened as has sometimes happened in the past. He also thanked everyone for the easy transition to a virtual meeting due to winter weather in January.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bill Stowe mentioned a Bar Mills craftsman kit that would be in the raffle. He also showed a precision glue applicator that was useful for craftsman kits.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of February 24 for the March newsletter. The address for contributions is cdi-tor@coaldivision.org.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer noted that Bill Grosse had completed the paperwork for the Chief Dispatcher Certificate. Next month our clinic will be an explanation of how the Achievement Program works. Sam Delauter mentioned that there is a status page for Division 9 members AP progress.

Library

No report.

Clinic

Randy was not present. For April will have several mini clinics. Today's clinic is *Tissue Paper Signs and Tools* by Robert Osburn. May and June are open for clinics.

Contest

Today's contest is Steam Engines.

Membership

John Harris noted that membership is steady at 42.

Raffle

Tony Puccini mentioned the procedure to send a card of condolences or congratulations for the Division. He also showed what was up for raffle today.

T TRAK

Herb Parsons mentioned that there will be a large modular display at the Mid-Central Convention in May. There was discussion of the logistics of getting Division 9 modules to the convention. He also mentioned an article in the latest C&O HS E-Journal about building a proportional freight car fleet for a layout.

Education

No report.

Old Business

There was discussion on our participation in the Charleston Train Show which will be the weekend following the meeting.

Paul Lapointe updated everyone on the plans for the May Steel Is King meeting in Parkersburg, WV.

Sam Delauter distributed certificates to members who participated in the 2024 Memorial Modeling Challenge. There was discussion on what the challenge would be for 2025.

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

KVRA Charleston Train Show February 15 and 16 at the Charleston Civic Center.
 Mid-Ohio Valley Model RR Club Open House February 22, 2025.
 C&O Modeler's Weekend Logan, WV March 28-30, 2025.
 NMRA Mid-Central Region Buckeye Express Convention May 15-18, 2025.

Future Meetings:

March 8 – St Albans, WV
 April 12 – St Albans, WV
 May 10 – Steel Is King Parkersburg, WV

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

While I'm sure Sam Delauter and others will cover it, I'm going to touch on this year's KVRA Train and Craft Show.

My first comment is on the T-TRAK display. This was my first time to have a module included. My big insights are how far I have yet to go on model railroading, and more importantly, how much time this takes to put together and execute. Friday was 3 hours plus to set up, with a full day on Saturday to support the operation (around 8 hours), and Sunday a potential 6 hours plus for operation and removal. I was minimal help on Friday, no help on Saturday as I was staffing the booth, and no help on Sunday as I didn't make it in due to weather. Kudos to Herb Parsons, Sam Delauter, Bob Osburn, Don Cipolla, and Tony Parrish for setup. My perception is that Herb and Sam did the lion share of support on Saturday. My learning is if I am going to have a module in the show, I need to better plan how I can support it (with input from Herb and Sam).

My second comment is simply how much my personal enjoyment of the show has increased over the three years, and that is mainly due to the opportunity to socialize with fellow Coal Division members at the show. It may well be counterproductive to our NMRA booth, but for me worth mentioning. It surprises me as by nature I'm a loner. I think it says a great deal about all of you,

and I wonder if that is what the main value the NMRA has to offer.

As far as the booth goes, I do think we have hit on a better plan to keep it close to the T-TRAK modules and in the show proper. For my first year at the show we were at the entrance, and it just seemed people moved by it without a glance to get into the show proper. Having said that, while during my two hour stint we had three or four folks drift by the booth, I just didn't get anyone interested in the NMRA. I'd be interested if others had better interaction. I did find this year that as I had people interested in certain things, I was able to link them up with other members who had similar interests. For example, a couple who were interested in scenery I was able to link up with Bob Osburn to talk about his modules, and a person who modelled On30 I was able to link up with Randy Allio. So, another benefit of us being close together.

To close I'll end with a lighter note. As Bob Osburn observed, I'm having a lot of fun with my model railroad activities. As I do, my questions increase, which becomes part of my 'socialization' with all of you. So thanks to all for you for your patience with my questions. And while not a contest, David Oliverio wins this month's best answer to my question. I asked him why he used real dirt on his road for his T-TRAK module. His answer "Because it's a dirt road".

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

We set up our T-TRAK modules at the KVRA Model Railroad show over the weekend of Feb. 15 & 16. Our layout received a lot of interest and many favorable comments. A big thanks to all our members who brought their modules for the show, Sam Delauter, John Harris, Robert Osburn, Bill Stowe, Anthony Parrish, Don Cipolla, Bill Grosse, and Herb Parsons.

I received an E-Mail from Bruce Arbo concerning the 2026 World's Largest T-TRAK layout in Chattanooga, TN.. They now have more than enough modules for the space available. Anyone who registers from this time on will be put on a standby list in case of no shows. The planned layout will take up a room 100' X 100'.

CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

March. Bob Weinheimer Achievement Program.

April. Mini Clinics

1. Tony Puccini 3d Clouds
2. David Oliverio Modeling Broken Glass
3. Randy Allio More Tools of the Trade

May. No Clinic

June. Bob Weinheimer "What If..."

July. Randy Allio Using Modern Scenery Materials

August. Need a Volunteer

September. No Clinic

October. Mini Clinics (See me if interested in presenting. All of you have something the group would be interested in)

November. Need a Volunteer

Passenger Manifest

John Harris, Membership Chair

Here is a big shout out to all who helped with the Division 9 presence at the KVRA Show. The Coal division T-TRAK modules had a lot of visitors and seemed to be well received. The “T” shaped configuration was a nice touch and added visual interest. I felt the arrangement flowed well and the modules coordinated with each other. I will leave it to Herb Parsons and others to further elaborate on the success of the layout.

It was good to have the Coal Division display be right across from the T-TRAK layout. It allowed us to keep an eye on each other and offered a larger presence for the group. Thanks also those who staffed the display, particularly to Don Cipolla for manning the display for such a large time period. He used the time to add shingles to several buildings which allowed for some interaction with visitors. I too worked on parts to a craftsman kit that had been setting idle on the layout only as a mock up. Overall, I do not think we had as many visitors as in the past but still there were a few contacts made. Additionally, Randy Allio set up to demonstrate “dead rail” and Pan Pastels. He had a lot of traffic and managed to sell some product. All in all, I think the weekend was a success.

Recent weather has been a challenge for many. Since January 5th, snow has been on the ground more days than not. While not in great amounts at any one time, we have had more frequent snow days over the last two months than at any time I can remember. The good news is that it has allowed me to finally begin to make progress on the Allegheny & New River Road. Several projects that had been setting half done are now looking pretty good. Details are yet to be added but even the mock-ups look better than partially complete models or empty spaces. Several rock castings were made and stained and more trees have been added to the hillsides along the Allegheny

ridges. Even the New River has more color as it winds through the gorge. A few more rapids and rocks need to be added before the gloss media is added. I was finally able to clean up all the damage created by the invasion of the kitties.

All that said, I hope others have been able to be productive during this particularly snowy winter of 2025. While the weather has afforded me some additional time to devote to modeling, the fact that my professional work load has been reduced has perhaps been the biggest part of the surge in progress. But I must also consider that the recent achievement of others in reaching MMR status has prompted me to get back to work on my own goals. I am certainly not as young as I was when I set those same goals and the time available to reach those goals is getting shorter. I find that setting small deadlines that can be more easily reached are much better than being overwhelmed by the larger task. As it is often said, the journey of 100 miles must start with the first step.

So, I have been working on a larger list of smaller tasks. Some are things that can be accomplished in just a day and others are projects that may take several days. The key is to be able to see these to completion and check them off the list. In that way, the instant gratification of seeing small goals completed was like mini rewards in themselves. This was a lesson I learned long ago in the work place but seemed to have lost track of in the hobby. This refocus seems to be working. I see several things that were setting dormant that are now done. One of those first steps was simply organizing work space and inventorying storage spaces. This in itself has allowed me to become more efficient. I encourage others to consider the same.

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

PARKERSBURG- The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club welcomed 253 guests at its annual Louie Creel Memorial Open House on February 22. The club did well with regard to monetary donations and raffled a framed piece of CSX artwork and an HO train set. Facebook continues to be MOVIMRC's most effective way of promoting itself, even though there was a feature story about the open house in two local newspapers and promotional

postings appeared on both the Greater Parkersburg Convention & Visitors Bureau and Downtown PKB organization websites.

MOVIMRC's next event is the annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House on May 17.

CONTEST

Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

The contest category for January was Steam Locomotives. Three entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1st place Don Cipolla – V&T Mogul #20
Tahoe
2nd place Sam Delauter – Nickel Plate Road
#587
3rd place Tony Parrish – Lorado & Buffalo
Creek #10

The March contest category is: Locomotives Other Than Steam.

The April contest category is: Kitbashing/
Scratch Built – Anything Railroad Related.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 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 – V&T Mogul #20 Tahoe (HO scale)

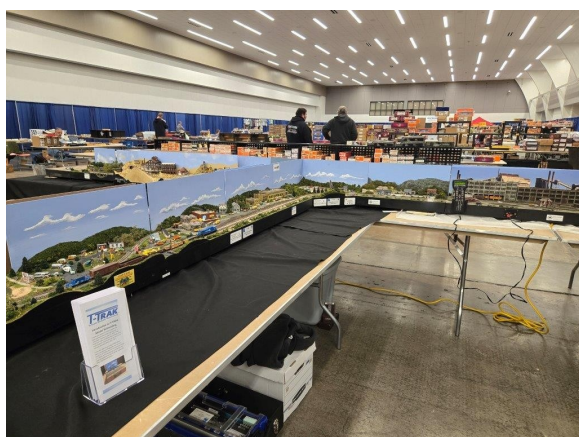


Sam Delauter – Nickel Plate Road #587



Tony Parrish – Lorado & Buffalo Creek #10

KVRA Show Photos by John Harris



My Word

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Unfortunately, a number of things kept me from attending the recent KVRA train show. It looks like I missed a good one but I thank all of you for representing the Coal Division so well.

As noted here and at our meetings, the NMRA celebrates its 90th birthday this year. The Central Indiana Division (greater Indianapolis) is hosting an event on Labor Day. Invited speakers include Central District Director Fred Soward MMR® and Achievement Program manager Ray Persing. The program is still being developed but it should be interesting. I'm sure the Coal Division officers would welcome ideas for how we can celebrate the birthday. We talked about a picnic that day then though it might be better attended if we held at the usual August timeframe. I'm sure we can come up with something to do on Labor Day weekend.

As John Harris notes in his column, this has been quite a winter. Like John, I am not sure I have seen snow

on the ground for so long without any one storm delivering a monster snowfall. Yes, the rain preceding the snow in January was ugly, it even caused me to cancel my January operating session. I think it has been the prolonged cold snaps that have really made the winter long.

Again, due to the weather forecast, I had a small turnout for my February session but we still had lots of fun. I'm hoping those who come from a bit farther away can finally feel comfortable enough to make the trip for the March session.

In April a couple of friends from Louisville will be here for my session as well as sessions hosted by David Oliverio and Jerry Doyle. That trip illustrates the value of NMRA membership. I know all the involved folks from their membership in the NMRA. Indeed, many of my operators are NMRA members and we hope the others may join. As Bill Stowe notes, this fellowship is a big benefit of NMRA membership!

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.



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.

- 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



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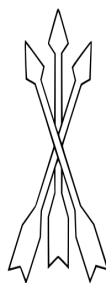
CRUSTY
MOUNTAIN
AND
WILOBY
SPRINGS R.R.

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 Portsmouth, OH



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

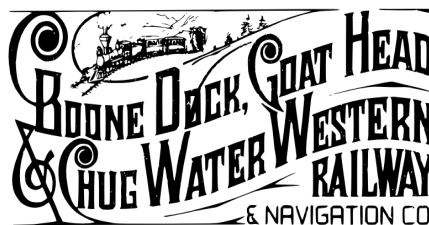


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The
POSSUM
HOLLOW
 Branch

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
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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 8

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

April 12

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

May 10

Waverly, West Virginia

June 14

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

July 12

Elkview, West Virginia