



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

May 2025

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

The April Coal Division meeting was once again held at the St. Albans Historical Society building. The contest at the meeting was “Scratchbuilt/Kitbashed” and the clinic was the “Mini Clinic Event”. This is a recurring event and always proves to be popular. Many thanks to Randy Allio, David Oliverio, Tony Puccini for giving clinics and to those who entered the contest for making them a success. None of this would be possible without the willingness of our members.

Our May meeting will once again be held in Parkersburg as the “Steel Is King” event is returning this year. While the details will be covered more in depth elsewhere in this newsletter, this event has always been a ton of fun. Coal Division member Paul Lapointe will open his home and layouts to us. Our members in Parkersburg have also arranged for the Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club to open its’ doors to us. Make sure to leave early enough to see all of these great layouts. The Division will be meeting at Paul’s for lunch and for our meeting. I hope that everyone will get there.

The 2025 MCR Convention is May 15-18 in Dublin, Ohio. If you have not registered yet, it is not too late. Online registration will remain open until May 15th. However if you want to attend the banquet, you will need to register by May 3rd. While the date has passed to get the reduced rate for your hotel room, there may still be availability at the standard rate. I would urge each member to attend the regional convention. These conventions really have a lot to offer us. There are always great clinics, layout tours, and operating sessions. All of those are a lot of fun but that’s not all the convention offers. If you are trying to complete the MMR program, it not only gives us the chance to have our models evaluated but there is a lot we can learn at the convention to prepare for future entries. While it may be seeing the scores for other models or shadowing the judges, we can learn and improve our models. The convention also will feature the yard sale, the T-TRAK layout and the banquet. This is also a great time to spend with fellow division members or members throughout our region that we may know.

The May Coal Division meeting will be held May 10th in Waverly, WV at Paul Lapointe’s home. The business meeting will follow lunch at 1:00 PM. The contest will be “Anything Steel Related”. Since we are out of town for this meeting, there will be no clinic but we should have a raffle. I hope to see everyone in Parkersburg.

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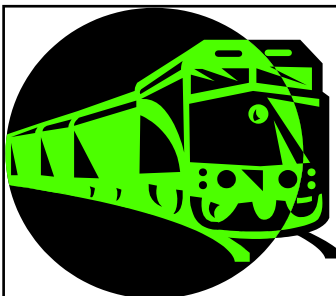
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday May 10

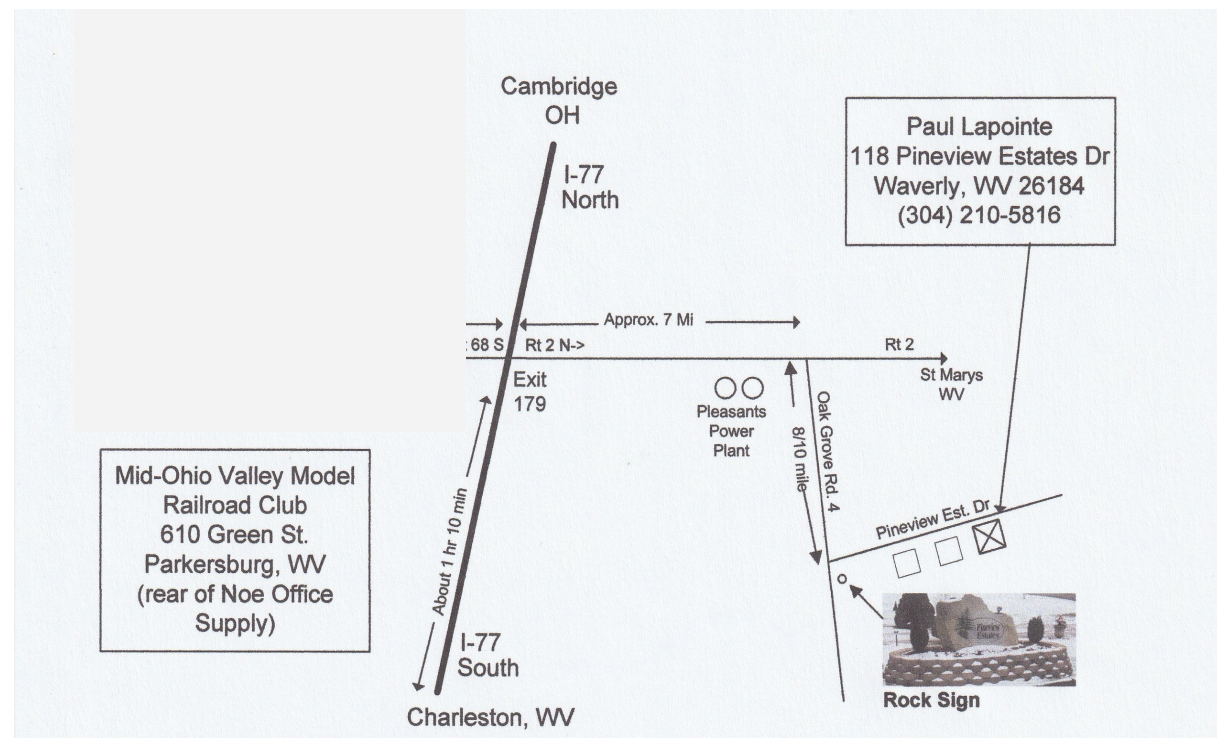
STEEL IS KING

Waverly, WV

- 9AM to Noon, Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is open, see map for details
- 9AM Paul Lapointe's layout opens.
- Noon Lunch
- 1PM Coal Division Meeting
- Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)
- Superintendent's Report
- Assistant Superintendent Report
- Clerk's Report
- Committee Reports
- Old and New Business
- Contest: Anything Steel Related
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Raffle (always need new items)

**Next Meeting
June 14, 2025**

STEEL IS KING MAY 10, 2025



STEEL IS KING DAY is back!

There is plenty of steel mill action on Paul Lapointe's layout and as a bonus the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club has an open house from 9am to noon. The club features several extensively sceniced layouts in a variety of gauges.

Paul's steel mill layout will be open at 9am for your inspection at 118 Pineview Estates Dr. in Waverly. There will be NMRA layout tour signs leading to the house. The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is at the rear of Noe Office Supply, 610 Green Street, Parkersburg.

Paul will be serving lunch at noon followed by the NMRA meeting at 1pm. The contest will be any steel related model of any kind.

Paul can be reached on 304-210-5816 .

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.

- June: June 2
- July: June 30

- August: July 28
- September: September 1
- October: September 29
- November: October 27
- December: December 1

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
On Line Meeting
April 12 2025
Minutes

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Sam Delauter at 1:10 p.m. Members introduced themselves.

Division Clerk Report

March minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$9,493.35.
 Company Store \$0.
 Raffle \$38.
 Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Sam mentioned the passing of Robert Osburn's mother at the age of 96. He also mentioned the upcoming MCR regional convention in Columbus, Ohio May 15-18. A fair number of members in attendance are planning to go to the convention. Randy Alio encouraged members to take items to enter in the modeling contest. Bob Weinheimer gave some advice on how to effectively complete the contest paper work.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bill Stowe mentioned a visit to Bob Weinheimer's while Bob was restaging the Pennsylvania Southern.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of April 28 for the May newsletter. The address for contributions is [edi-tor@coaldivision.org](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org).

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer presented Bill Grosse with the certificate for Chief Dispatcher. Bob mentioned that we now get very fast feedback for submissions.

Library

No report.

Clinic

Randy mentioned the possibility of having mini clinics at the August meeting. Bob Weinheimer volunteered to do a clinic on the history of the NMRA in observance of the 90th Anniversary. Randy Alio volunteered to do a clinic on how to get published.

Contest

Today's contest is Kitbashed and Scratchbuilt models.

Membership

John Harris noted that membership is steady at 42. He also mentioned the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad has restored C&O #1309 to service. It was decided to begin arrangements for members to make a field trip on a non-

meeting weekend.

Raffle

Tony thanked Bill Grosse for his donation last month that garnered \$80 in tickets last month. This month there were a number of items for raffle for today.

T TRAK

Herb Parsons has talked with Bruce DeMaeyer about the large modular display at the Mid-Central Convention in May. He mentioned that in addition to modules, participants should also bring trains to run. Herb mentioned two recent presentations on N Scale topics. One was about Japanese hobby shops which often have layouts that can be rented to run trains. There was discussion about the Japanese origins of T-TRAK. Herb told members about his display at the recent SACOM C&O Modelers weekend at Chief Logan State Park.

Education

No report.

Old Business

Bob Weinheimer updated everyone on arrangements for next month's meeting in Parkersburg. Dave Stout's layout will NOT be open, the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club will be open 9-noon, Paul Lapointe's layout will be open from 9-4. The membership meeting will be at Paul's at 1. Lunch will be provided at noon. The contest will be anything steel related.

New Business

None

Announcements

The G&G will be operating on April 17 at 7:30.
 NMRA Mid-Central Region Buckeye Express Convention May 15-18, 2025.
 NMRA National Convention Novi, MI the week of July 14.

Future Meetings:

May 10 – Steel Is King Waverly, WV
 June 14 – Don Cipolla's Hurricane, WV
 July 12 – Randy Alio's Big Chimney, WV
 August 9 – St Albans, WV Picnic on the Platform

Meeting adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

Well with the warmer weather (at last) my indoor model railroad activities have slowed down to a crawl. What time I spend seems to be on other people layouts rather than my own.

I had the opportunity this past month to operate on David Oliverio's N scale layout. Initially it was to be a visit to see the progress since my last visit about a year and a half ago, but David suggested we do an operating session, which turned out to be a lot of fun.

It was amazing to see the progress David has made with his layout. When I was there last the focus was on laying track. Today it is a fully operating layout with much of the structures and scenery in place. Also, a small point for some but a huge one for a first time operator (me), all the signage along the layout was complete (names of towns, yard schematics, etc.). Throughout the layout you can see David's meticulous attention to detail.

It was my first time operating a N scale layout, and I

found the differences from HO layouts I have operated on interesting. The sense of scale is very different, from the travel time between locations, the size of train, and even the visual effect of the structures. It was a new feeling to have time to enjoy the simple running of the train through the scenery. The JMRI software was interesting to learn. I found it to be very intuitive for someone like myself who has not operated a lot. The combination of train orders and setoff/pickup instructions on one sheet of paper were easier for me to follow, and prevented me from doing something silly like taking a stack of car way-bills home in my shirt pocket (as I have done at Bob's layout).

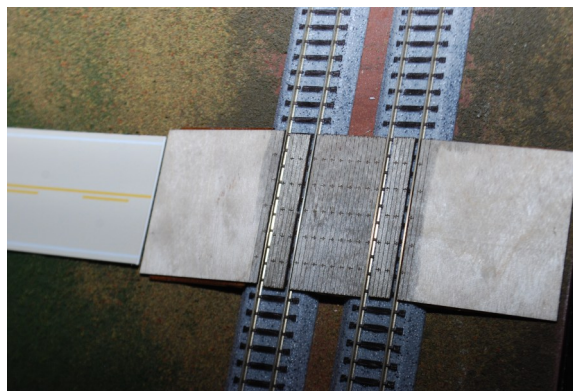
While I probably won't switch to N scale for my own modelling (due to old eyes and old fat fingers), I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope to do it again in the future.

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

On April 14, Sam Delauter sent me a text about a new product from Osborn Model Kits. The T-TRAK level crossing boards is a laser kit made specifically for T-TRAK modules. I ordered 3 kits, 2 straight and 1 curved. The kits are easy to assemble using white glue. I stained the boards with Micro Mark's Railroad Tie and bridge Stain to give the boards a more weathered look. The kits can be ordered from Osborn Models on their web site: www.osbornmodelkits.com.

Reminder, the MCR convention is a few weeks away. If you are going to enter your module for judging at the MCR Convention fill out form 901, and attach form 903, the judges form, and keep them with your modules. The forms can be found on the Buckeye Express web page, <https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org>.



Passenger Manifest

John Harris, Membership Chair

I enjoyed my time at the beach with the wife. I did not find any hobby shop in the area that offered anything other than RC cars, boats, and planes. I did, however, score a Central Valley "Old Timers" box car from the sales shelves of the Grand Strand Model Railroad Club. This was the same kit from Ed Keith's collection that we had for the Gary Burdette Challenge a few years ago. Coincidentally, this was the same Southern Pacific I drew for the challenge. This time I will convert it to a C&O box car and perhaps locate it with the SP on an abandoned siding on the A&NRR.

As mentioned during our last meeting, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad has indicated that former C&O Mallet 2-6-6-2 #1309 will return to service the first of May. A show of hands also indicated that our members were interested in doing a railfan road trip. Accordingly I have reached out and obtained specific information for your consideration.

Steam excursions only run on Saturday and Sunday. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that 1309 will be used although it is priority. Diesels are used weekdays. Departures from the station at Cumberland are at 11:30 with boarding beginning 45 minutes prior. The trip west to Frostburg takes approximately an hour and a half. There is a 90 minute lay over to turn the train for the return trip to Cumberland with arrival at 4:00. (4.5 hour total) All seats are reserved and assigned based on type of service requested. Coach and open air car service is \$55.00 each. Lunch class service is in a dining car and consists of sandwiches, wraps, or salads. Cost for this service is \$110.00 per person. Lounge car service includes a cash bar and complimentary appetizers, also at \$110.00 per person.

Then, Dome car service is available at a cost of \$130.00 per person. A cash bar is also provided in the dome car.

Also available is the evening Dinner Train although I did not feel this would be great interest to the group. Price for a table of one is \$270.00 with a table of 4 at \$540.00. If there is interest we can certainly pursue it. Additional information and pictures can be found on their website: WMSR.com. I chose not to include any photos for fear of copyright infringement. I will provide additional information at our meeting.

Logistics and time required to make reservations pretty much suggest that weekends in June would possibly work and second half of August and September would work. (I will be out of town July 4th weekend and from July 13th to August 10th) October gets booked really fast. We will need to select possible dates at the May meeting, particularly if we want to plan on June excursion. Due to the cost and ability for everyone to select their own level of service, I am suggesting that we attempt to block out a date with approximate numbers of each service requested. Then each person will be responsible for making their own reservation by a specific date before WMSR releases the seats not used to general public.

Travel time from Charleston is just under 4 hours. There are plenty of accommodations in the area for those who chose to not drive up and back the same day. One possibility is the Rocky Gap Casino and Resort just east of Cumberland. Camping there is also available at the Rocky Gap State Park.

Keep modeling and I hope to see you at the May meeting.

CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

June: Bob Weinheimer: "What If"
 July: Randy Allio: Using modern Scenery Materials
 August: Need a Volunteer
 September: No Clinic

October: Mini Clinics: Looking for Presenters
 November: David Oliverio: Modeling Techniques
 December: Annual Challenge

My Word

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

Well, I didn't leave myself much room this time! We are coming up on convention season so make your plans to attend the Mid Central Region convention in Columbus. Region conventions are usually the most affordable sort of event.

The NMRA National Convention will be in July in Novi, Michigan, that's suburban Detroit. It will be done

in new way starting Monday afternoon instead of Sunday. The National Train Show will be only Saturday and Sunday. Registration is \$125, a relatively low amount for such an event. The hotel offers free parking! If you have never been to a National Convention, give this one a try.

See more at <https://nmra2025.com/>

CONTEST

Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

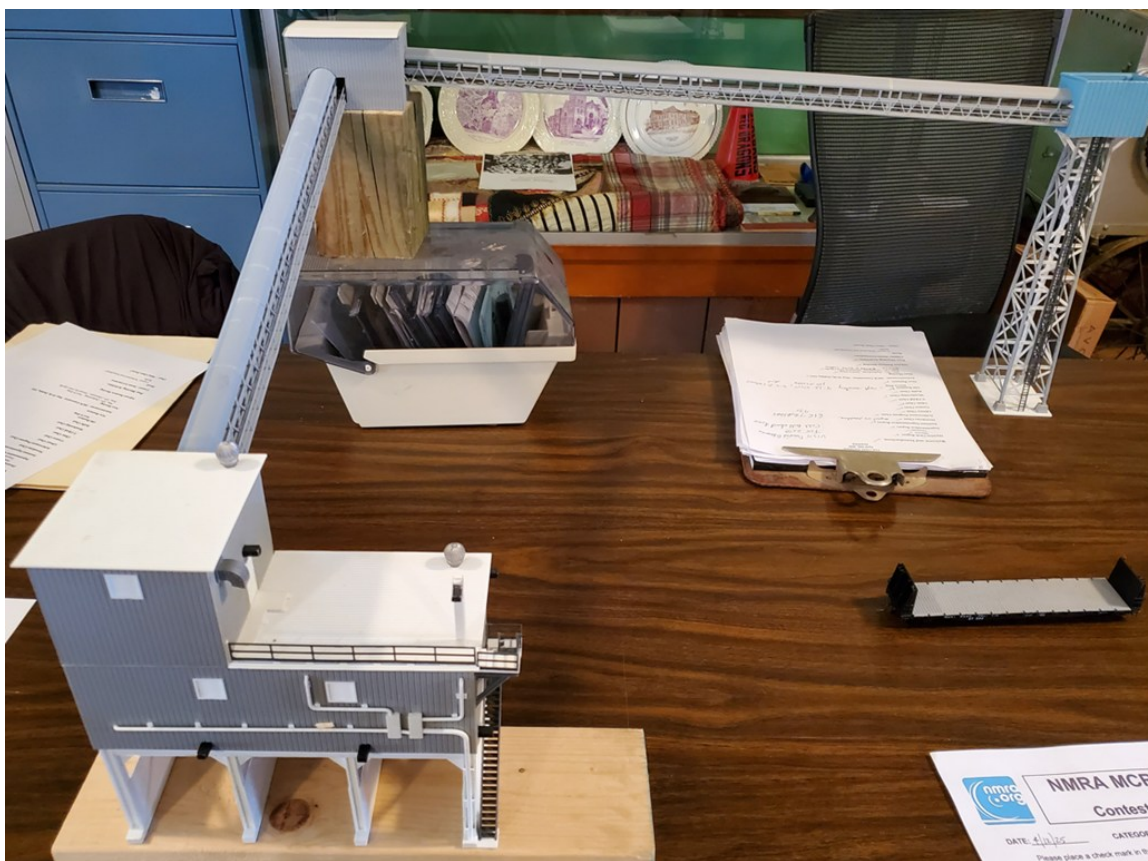
The contest category for April was Kitbashing/scratchbuilt. Four entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

- 1st place Mark Maynard – Quarry conveyor
 2nd place Sam Delauter – NP bulkhead flat
 3rd place Bob Weinheimer – Pennsylvania Southern gondola

The May contest category is: Anything Steel Related.

The June contest category is: Non-Revenue.

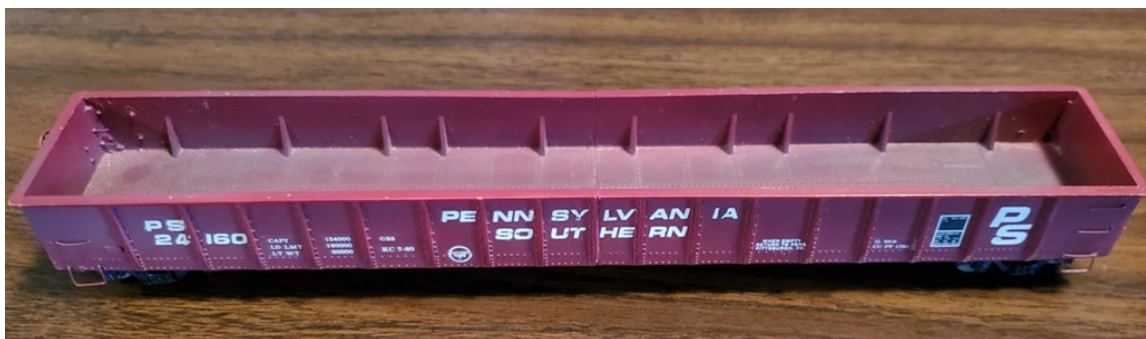
2025	Monthly Model Contest
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotives Other Than Steam
April	Kitbashing/Scratch Built, (Anything Railroad Related)
May	Anything Steel Related
June	Non Revenue
July	Structures
August	Electronics of a Railroad
September	Photo, Model or Prototype
October	Open Loads
November	Passenger Cars
December	Annual Memorial Modeling Challenge



Mark Maynard's scratch built quarry.



Sam Delauter's bulkhead flat car started as a regular flat car and received a new shorter deck that made room for the scratch built bulkheads. Ironically, the prototype did the same starting with a plain flat car!



Bob Weinheimer's 60' gondola kitbashed from two 40' cars. It also has a scratch built underframe.

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 the Monday of the week preceding the second Saturday of each month.. Items can be sent to editor@coaldivision.org

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club
By Mark Suek

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club will host two events in May. First up is a visit from NMRA Coal Division members on May 10 with the club open from 9 am until 12 noon. MOVIMRC member Paul Lapointe will be hosting a business meeting, luncheon and tours of his "Steel Is King" HO scale home layout for Coal Division members for much of that same day in Waverly. Second, MOVIMRC will host its annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House on May 17 (Armed Forces Day) in honor of the late Mr. Shive's contributions to our country in the United States Air Force as long as his many years of service to the club. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm at the club

facility, located in the rear basement of NOE Office Equipment at 610 Green Street in downtown Parkersburg. The club will conduct a prize drawing for a Lionel O scale Pennsylvania Railroad (a favorite of the late Mr. Shive) steam passenger set and railroad coffee table books at the May 17 open house.

MOVIMRC received televised publicity last month, when it was featured on local NBC affiliate WTAP's "This Is Home" segment. The club will also be featured in an upcoming publication by the Wood County Historical and Preservation Society.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
Bob Weinheimer MMR®
Photo by Sam Delauter



Bob (right) presents Bill Grosse with his Chief Dispatcher Certificate while Randy Allio MMR® looks on.



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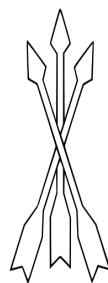
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILBY SPRINGS R.R.

Mark Maynard, President
 Portsmouth, OH



CRESCENT VALLEY

Jerry Doyle, President
 Barboursville, WV

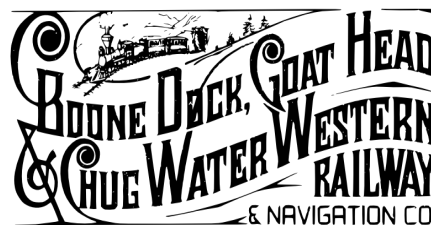


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The POSSUM HOLLOW Branch

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

May 10

**Hosted by Paul Lapointe
Waverly, West Virginia**

June 14

**Hosted by Don Cipolla
Hurricane, West Virginia**

July 12

**Hosted by Randy Allio
Elkview, West Virginia**