



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

June 2025

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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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The Steel Is King Event was once again held in Parkersburg this year. It had been a couple of years since we were able to host our May meeting featuring this event. Our hosts also arranged for us to visit the Mid Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club while we were in town. It was great to get to visit both the club and Paul's layout and see the progress that has been made over the last couple of years. Many thanks to Paul Lapointe and his family as well as Steve Vicars and the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club for hosting us. While at Paul's, we held the contest and the raffle. We had several great entries in the contest and a couple of selections of good items in the raffle. If you have more than you need or things you don't have use for, please consider donating them to the raffle. This helps pay the rent for our normal meeting spot in St. Albans. Looking forward, we have started to plan for the 90th anniversary of the NMRA. If you have memories that you would like to share, please let Jerry know. We have also started planning our next railfan trip. There will be more info available as we finalize plans. Please consider taking the time to go on this trip. The last one a few years ago was a ton of fun.

The Coal Division had a busy May this year. In addition to the Steel Is King Event, the MCR Regional Convention was held in Dublin, Ohio. If you have never been to a convention before, you should give it a try next year. In addition to the clinics and layout tours, it's a great opportunity to spend time with your fellow members. The Coal Division had a great turnout and it was also nice to see some of the people that I met last year at the convention. Once again The Coal Division did very well in the contest. See below for results. Over the years, the Coal Division has placed well in the contest. If you are considering entering in the future, make sure to do so. The paperwork can seem like a lot but it is well worth it for the feedback you get on your model and even better if you place in the contest.

T-TRAK	Best of Show - Robert Osburn
	1st place - Robert Osburn
	2nd place - Herb Parsons
	3rd place - Don Cipolla MMR®
Dioramas	3rd place and favorite diorama - Randy Allio MMR®
B&W Photos	3rd place - Herb Parsons
Freight Cars	2nd and 3rd place - Sam Delauter
Steam Locos	1st place and favorite loco - Sam Delauter

The June meeting will be hosted by Don Cipolla in Hurricane, WV. Please see page 3 in this issue for more info on this meeting. Don will open his home to us at 10:00 AM and the meeting will start at 1:00 PM. The clinic for June will be "What If" by Bob Weinheimer. MMR® The clinic will help to prepare us for unforeseen circumstances such as theft, damages or worse. The clinic this month will be non revenue equipment. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting and visiting Don's layout.

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Clerk- Jerry Doyle
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ap@coaldivision.org

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Contest
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Mark Maynard
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Vacant

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Bill Wadsworth
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Membership
John Harris
membership@coaldivision.org

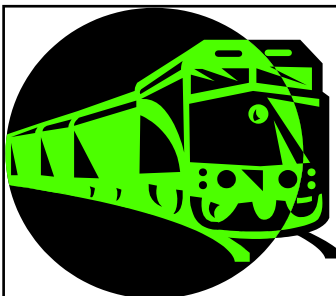
Raffle
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raffle@coaldivision.org

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DIVISION STAFF

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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

Saturday June 14

SILVER IS KING

hosted by Don Cipolla MMR®

See map next page

- 10 AM 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: Non Revenue Equipment
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Raffle (always need new items)

Next Meeting July 12, 2025

June 14 Division 9 Meeting

Don Cipolla's 1875 Virginia & Truckee RR layout where SILVER IS KING!

Layout opens 10:00.

Lunch @ 12:00.

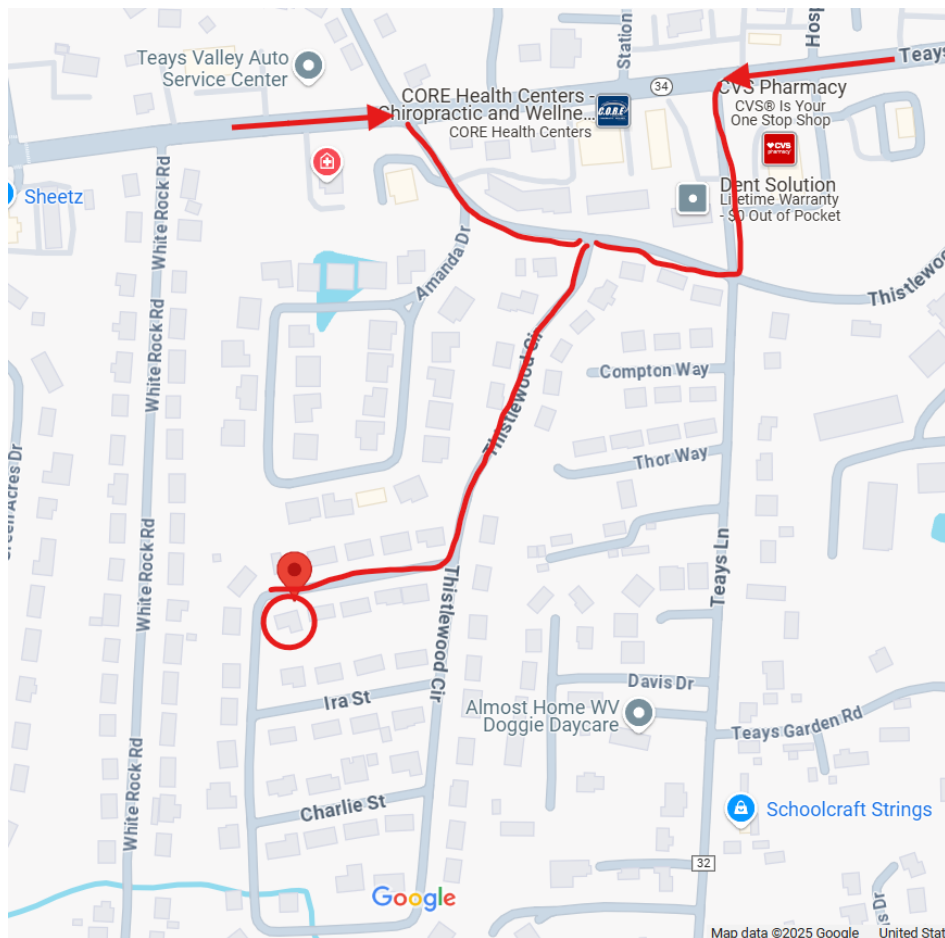
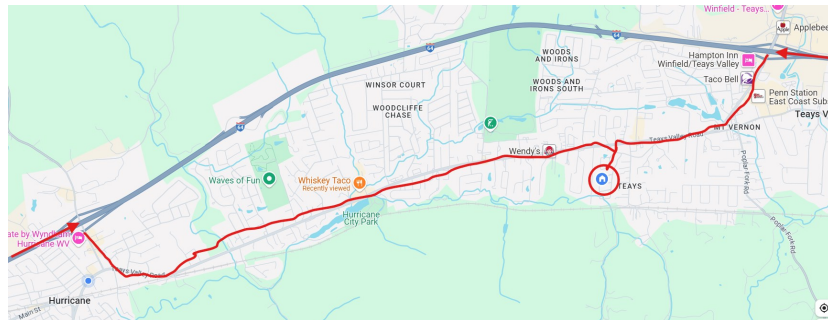
Ignore "Street Parking Prohibited" sign.

Everyone park on the same side (house) of the street.

Don't park on the curve.

Avoid walking on my grass. I have 2 dogs.

Don Cipolla
1565 Thistlewood Circle
Hurricane, WV
304-757-5524



gs!

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
Paul Lapointe's House
Waverly, WV
May 10 2025
Minutes

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

Division Clerk Report

April minutes approved.
 Treasury Balance is \$9,531.35.
 Company Store \$0.
 Raffle \$35.
 Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter thanked Paul for hosting today's meeting. Paul recognized others who also contributed to working for the meeting. He also mentioned Dave Stout, one of the founders of the Steel is King day and how he would like to have attended today.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bill Stowe thanked Paul for hosting the meeting. He commented on the work our meetings take but also how much he enjoys visiting other places. Bill mentioned a recent video produced by the model railroad industry addressing the current tariff situation.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted the deadline of May 30 for the June newsletter. The address for contributions is edi-tor@coaldivision.org.

Achievement Program

Bob Weinheimer mentioned that hosting a meeting merits three points. He noted that Mark Maynard had hosted our September meeting numerous times.

Library

No report.

Clinic

No clinic today. Randy Allio did note there were numerous items on Paul's layout that would be worth looking at.

Contest

Today's contest is Steel Related models.

Membership

John Harris discussed the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. Some dates were discussed as well as the different levels of tickets. Steam power is only run on weekends. It was decided that August 16 was best.

Raffle

Tony showed both HO and N models available today.

T TRAK

Herb Parsons mentioned purchasing a kit for T TRAK modules that had a \$7 tariff added to the final price. He also mentioned that the plan for the convention display is set. On the same weekend there will be an Ohio N Scale Weekend in Marion, Ohio. Bill Stowe mentioned that 20% of the convention display will be from Division 9. There was discussion on how active Division 9 has been in T-TRAK.

Education

No report.

Old Business

Sam mentioned observing the 90th anniversary. Bob Weinheimer suggested we have a cake at our August Picnic on the Platform. Sam and Jerry Doyle will work on a budget for this event. Sam suggested we have presentations on members who are no longer with us and the history of the Division. Jerry Doyle agreed to work on this.

The Buckeye Express MCR convention in Columbus will begin next Thursday. Randy Allio encouraged members to bring models to the contest.

New Business

Robert Osburn mentioned that 9th annual Memorial Challenge is right around the corner. Some ideas are back-ground building, scratchbuilt cars, and open freight loads.

Announcements

NMRA Mid-Central Region Buckeye Express Convention May 15-18, 2025.

NMRA National Convention Novi, MI the week of July 14.

Future Meetings:

June 14 – Don Cipolla's Hurricane, WV

July 12 – Randy Allio's Big Chimney, WV

August 9 – St Albans, WV Picnic on the Platform

Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

Well, May is feeling like a mix of model railroad activities with the 'Steel is King' in Parkersburg and the NMRA Regional Convention in Columbus, combined with a steady need for mowing and bush hogging with all the rain.

I enjoyed my second visit to Paul's layout, and appreciate the effort he, Steve, and Paul's wife went to host us. The Regional convention for me was short, arriving early Friday afternoon due to other commitments. For all the short time in Columbus, I managed to get in some R&R in Columbus on Friday evening, and spent some time at the convention in clinics and layout tours. It was nice to see our group represented well in numbers, and participation in T-TRAK, conducting clinics, and entries in the contest. Congratulations to all who won awards.

It was my first time doing layout tours, so very much a learning experience. I think a key takeaway was I need

to stop, stand still, and look at the detail, rather than walk the whole layout trying to take it all in. It is interesting as always to see the different approaches to model railroad layouts, and I left with a few good tips for my own activities. I appreciate Don and David for sharing some of the things they look for on layout tours, and really appreciate it that when I asked what they looked for on layout tours they did NOT simply say 'model train layouts'.

Final note: Herb referred me to a website that he had found that had some information that may be useful for my interest in scratch building cars. The site is 'hoseeker.net'. A ton of information, somewhat hard to find exactly what you're looking for, but worth a couple of minutes to check it out. And for my monthly plug on the NMRA website, it also contains a lot of information useful for scratch building cars.

T-TRAK

Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

Division 9 was well represented at the MCR Buckeye Express convention with T-TRAK modules by Robert Osburn, David Oliverio, Don Cipolla, and Herbert Parsons. The convention T-TRAK layout consisted of 51 modules from almost of the divisions of the MCR. There were 5 modules on display for a total of 56.

Robert Osburn's 2 Camp We-Go and his Industrial modules won the People's Choice Award and 1st Place Judged modules, Herbert Parsons' Fire Creek, WV won 2nd place, and Don Cipolla's Comstock Mining won 3rd place.

On Sunday after the convention, I drove up to Marion, Ohio for the Central Ohio N Scale Weekend. They had their T-TRAK layout set up along with The AMRS N-track layout and a FreemoN layout. There were vendors selling new and gently used and not so gently used N-scale locomotives and cars. And I left a good sum at those tables.



Passenger Manifest

John Harris, Membership Chair

Thanks again to Paul and his wife for hosting the Steel is King day in May. It was good to see progress made over last year. At our last meeting, it was the consensus of those present that August 16th was the preferred time for our Western Maryland Scenic Railroad excursion. Accordingly I have reached out to WMSR to reserve spaces based on the interest shown by those signing up. We had requests for every class on the train so we should have plenty of differing experiences and possibly photos to share afterwards. So far, no confirmation as to whether all seats will be available but I expect to know more at our June meeting. Just in case there are others that want to join us, I have blocked out a few extra spaces. It is my understanding that we are only blocking out these spaces and each individual will be required to contact WMSR direct to guarantee or reserve the space.

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. These include Fairfield Inn & Suites Cumberland, Ramada by Wyndham Downtown, Hampton Inn, all in Cumberland; Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Inn & Suites in nearby LaVale; and a Sleep Inn & Suites just east of Cumberland. Another possibility is the Rocky Gap Casino and Resort about 10 miles east of Cumberland. Camping there is also

available at the Rocky Gap State Park. Hotel prices range from \$89 to \$155 so choices to meet everyone's budget.

Meanwhile, I am sure those who attended the Mid-Central Regional Convention had a great time. It sounded like the Coal Division was well represented. I had travel plans with family to the Blue Ridge Mountains of VA and could not attend myself. I am anxious to hear how things went, particularly when it comes to contest results. I am however, looking forward to the National Convention next month. Several of the layouts I follow on YouTube are on the Layout Tours list so I am stoked about being able to visit them. It helps that this area is former C&O territory.

After the convention, my wife and I are crossing the border into Canada and headed along the north shores of Lake Erie and Ontario to Quebec and then to the maritime provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edwards Island, and Nova Scotia. We are still debating if Newfoundland/Labrador is in the plan. Regardless, the plan is to return by way of Maine and home for our August 9th division meeting.

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

CLINICS

Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

June: Bob Weinheimer "What If"

July: Randy Allio Using modern scenery materials

August: No Clinic

September: No Clinic

October: Mini Clinics

November: David Oliverio Modeling Techniques

December: Annual Challenge

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at my layout for the July meeting.

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.

- 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 May was Anything Steel Related. Two entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

1st place Robert Osburn – Ingot molds & slag pot
2nd place Herbert Parsons – Flatcar with sheet steel load

The June contest category is: Non-Revenue.

The July contest category is: Structures.

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



Robert Osburn's ingot molds and slag pot.



Herb Parsons's flat car with steel sheet load.

My Word

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

This issue of the newsletter is coming out a couple of days early as I have some out of town travel right at the normal time of its distribution. I hope to be able to tell you about the trip at the June meeting, it is NMRA related.

Superintendent Sam Delauter has been the victim of some sort of imposter who has sent emails asking for gift cards to be sent to him. These emails are bogus. If you click on the Sam's name in those emails, you will see an email address that bears no resemblance to his Coal Division or personal email addresses. The best way to handle this is to just delete the email.

The Buckeye Express in Dublin, Ohio last month was a great experience. While the hotel had seen a major public space renovation since the 2016 convention that eliminated some very nice features, we found some good places in the area to dine including a wonderful Mongolian stir fry place. I extend my gratitude to whoever it was who suggested it!

The NMRA rebranding experience continues. Many

of the officers and directors met with a consultant while we were in Springfield in January. We should be hearing the results of their work shortly, I hope to be able to share at least some of it at our next meeting.

As you heard if you attended the clinic in Columbus, the NMRA is also working on a visioning project to get to a point of big improvement by the NMRA's 100th birthday in 2035. At that meeting you also heard of big changes in our membership program. Those of you who have asked for an automatic membership renewal are about to receive that. It still needs some software upgrades but it's getting closer.

I'll close here by suggesting you attend the NMRA National Convention in Novi, Michigan in July. If you liked the MCR convention, this is like that but on steroids. You will get the opportunity to meet the officers, directors, and department heads who collectively make the NMRA function. Unfortunately, I'll have to leave on the same day Randy Allio is hosting for the July meeting so I can be there early Sunday for meetings.

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 Suck

The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club welcomed 63 guests at its annual Harold Shive Memorial Open House last month. The lower than expected attendance was attributed to beautiful Saturday weather, school graduations, sports tournaments and other competing events. Nonetheless, a good time was had by all and the club is always thankful for every guest who takes time out of their day to stop by. MOVRC member Wayne Batten is hosting a model railroad sale at his home on June 6 as a fundraiser for the club and member Jimmie Bee was featured in a recent local newspaper article about a model he was commissioned to build, concerning the oil boom town of Volcano, WV, as it appeared in the 1870s. The large model, which includes the short line railroad used to transport oil from Volcano to Parkersburg via a connection with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, is housed in a museum at Mountwood Park in Wood County.

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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NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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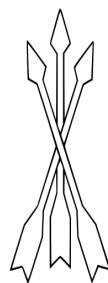
CRUSTY
MOUNTAIN
AND
WILOBY
SPRINGS R.R.

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CRESCENT VALLEY

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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

June 14

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

July 12

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

August 9

**Picnic on the Platform
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV**

September (date to be confirmed)

**Hosted by Mark Maynard
West Portsmouth, OH**