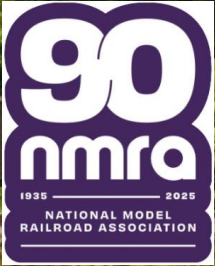




# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

September 2025

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## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

As has become tradition, once again the August meeting saw the annual Picnic On the Platform. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the picnic a success again this year. As always, it was good to spend time with my fellow Coal Division members on a more casual level. Unlike our regular meeting, there is plenty of time to spend with our fellow members before the meeting and during lunch. In place of a clinic, Jerry spoke on and provided a slide show on the history of the Coal Division. While Jerry headed the presentation, many other members were involved in the production or spoke during the slide show. Thank you to those who were involved and many thanks to those who have made the division a success over the years. We could not do it without every one of you.

At our July meeting, Robert announced the plans for this year's challenge. Robert has arranged with ITLA Models in Canada to provide modular building kits for the challenge. If you are not familiar with ITLA Models, they make nice laser cut kits and the way they are assembled is really different from other manufacturers. You can find them online if you are interested in finding out more about them. The kit that Robert is providing this year is one of their modular designs. It can be built in many ways and if you have no place for another structure on your layout, you can build it as a back-drop building. Robert will have the kits available to all Coal Division members very soon.

The Coal Division will once again be on the road this month. Our September meeting will be held in Portsmouth OH at Mark Maynard's house. Mark and his family are always eager to welcome us to their home and to his layout and always host a great cookout for us. Once again it looks like members of Division 6 will be joining us at this meeting. Not only will we have a chance to spend time with our members, but we will also have a chance to see some familiar faces from a neighboring Division. I hope to see everyone there and look forward to a great day of fellowship and trains. Don't forget that Mark offers space for us to host a yard sale and we will have some of the things from the recent donation on hand. Hopefully you'll find something of interest and take home a new priced piece for your layout.

Please see page 4 for more info on the meeting. Our friends in Division 6 made a nice page for the event this year and on Marks layout. I am including the link below, click [here](#) to see it.

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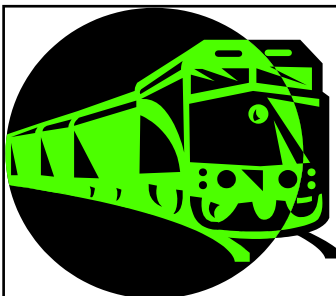
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## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

**Saturday September 13**

**Mark Maynard's Home  
West Portsmouth, OH**

(see page 3 for details and directions)

- **8:00 AM:** Layout opens if you wish to run trains on the Crusty.
- **11:00 AM:** Things really get rolling. Visit the layout, set out items to sell, and socialize
- **12:30 PM:** Lunch
- **1:00 PM:** Social time, Coal Division contest is photographs
- **2:00 PM:** Superintendent's Briefing
- **2:40 PM:** Contest results
- **3:00 PM:** Continue running trains and socializing

**Next Meeting  
October 11, 2025  
St. Albans, WV**

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

### Picnic on the Platform

St. Albans, WV

August 9, 2025

Meeting Notes

Highlights from brief regular meeting on August 9, 2025, at the St Albans Historical Society.

It had been decided to not take formal minutes as the plan was to have a very short business meeting. Over the course of the discussions there were a few items covered that should be communicated to the membership via this short note.

Projector: Issues with connectivity on a borrowed projector put the damper on an otherwise excellent presentation by Jerry Doyle on the Coal Division history and members. It was recommended that the Division buy its own projector to avoid this issue in the future. Cost is \$300 to \$400. Members voted to approved this expenditure. Jerry Doyle will arrange purchase and be point person for the use of this.

2025 Memorial Challenge: Bob Osburn reviewed the proposed challenge and had the final sign up for those who wanted to participate (a continuation of the one he had at the July meeting – so if you signed up at the July meeting you are good). Kits will be available at the September and October meeting for distribution.

Library: Bill Wadsworth announced he was looking at downsizing his residence. As part of this he requested that he pass on the library materials. Bill Stowe took on temporarily holding the library, and will look to have a discussion on future of the library at the October meeting.

Bill Wadsworth: Bill mentioned that he still has railroad books for sale, with 10% going to the Coal Division. He also mentioned he has a 4 x 7 HO layout that is free to a good home.

NMRA Logo: Bob Weinheimer communicated that a decision has been made to move to a new NMRA logo for all regions/divisions. Logo is not available yet for communication. Old logos on shirts and badges will continue to be acceptable, logos on electronic and printed materials and future badges and shirts will need to be changed.

Silent Auction: A silent auction was held at the meeting using recently donated items. It will be repeated at the September meeting. Proceeds will go towards funding this year's challenge.

New member: The Division welcomed a new member, Nathan Dollison from St Albans. John Harris has volunteered to be Nathan's mentor.

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

First, I want to thank all who contributed to another successful 'Picnic on the Platform' in August. With such a relatively small group it truly does take all of us to make this happen, so thank you. And we owe a special thanks to Jerry Doyle for pulling together a presentation to celebrate past and present Division 9 members.

Second, I want to thank John Harris for pulling together the event at the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. For me it was one of those 'what was I thinking' moments as I drove up Saturday morning, but I ended up thoroughly enjoying the train ride and the interaction with fellow Division 9 members.

My final item is regarding the video library for Division 9. Bill Wadsworth announced he is looking at downsizing his living arrangement, and as part of that asked that

someone take on the library of DVDs. I volunteered to temporarily take this on (key word is temporarily), until we decide what the future of the library looks like. Why I queue this up as a discussion on the future of the library, as opposed to simply looking for someone to take this on, is the low usage or interest in the library. Bill Wadsworth has, to my mind, been our very own version of the Maytag service representative, always willing to help but never getting the call. Looking through the box, the activity logs show 3 withdrawals over the last 5 years. For next steps I'll present my thoughts on options in next months newsletter, and will look to have a general discussion on at the October meeting. Of course, should someone feel strongly on continuing the video library they are more than welcome to take it on.

## SEPTEMBER EVENT RUNNING THE CRUSTY ROAD

As he has for the past several years, Mark Maynard has graciously agreed to host us and to provide lunch and beverages.

A big part of the day is the flea market sale. Bring any of those things you thought you couldn't live without but now realize you don't need. In particular, consider items that you might think too valuable for the raffle. Make sure your name is on it or the packaging, set a price, perhaps do some haggling, and be rid of it. We hope to have somebody to handle the money and bookkeeping but if you make a sale privately, please don't forget to pay the 10% fee due from the seller.

The contest will be photographs so bring those pictures of trains or other railroad subjects, prototype or model, black and white or color.

While those who wish to operate the Crusty are welcome at 8:00 AM, the other parts of the event start around 11AM. Lunch will be available around 12:30. The

business session will start at 2. While Portsmouth is a long distance for most of us to travel, car pooling can reduce costs and provide lots of good discussions en-route. All we need is a nice day.

Now, for some directions: If you are coming from anywhere but the west, find your way to Portsmouth, OH and leave town headed west on US 52. Look for Brouses Run Road about one half mile after the road narrows from four lanes to two lanes. Turn right onto Brouses Run Road then turn right into the first barn lot. In the past we have used Mark's house as a landmark but now you should turn at the Dollar General store. The model railroad is upstairs in the barn, the other activities will be out behind the barn under the canopies. If you want to use GPS, the house number is 42. Cell service in the area is limited, you may wish to download the map of the area if you plan to use GPS on your phone.

## CLINICS Randy Allio, Clinics Chair

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September: No Clinic</li> <li>◆ October: Mini Clinics</li> <li>◆ November: David Oliverio Modeling Techniques</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ December: Annual Challenge</li> <li>◆ January Jerry Doyle</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## 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.

October: September 29

- November: October 27
- December: December 1
- January: December 29

- February: February 2
- March: March 2
- April: March 31.0
- May: April 27
- June: June 1
- July: June 29
- August: July 27
- September: August 31



## CONTEST

### Don Cipolla and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

#### August 2025 Contest

The contest category for August was Railroad Electronics. No entries were made.

The September contest category is: Photo, Model or Prototype.

The October contest category is: Open Loads.

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

## PICNIC ON THE PLATFORM

### NMRA'S 90th BIRTHDAY

Photo by Herb Price



The members of the Coal Division gathered around the NMRA birthday cake.  
Thanks to John Harris for arranging for the cake.

## T-TRAK

### Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

The news for T-TRAK this month is that the Altoona, PA. N-Scale weekend is coming up on September 20 & 21, 2025.

One of the You Tube channels I watch is the DCC Guy with Larry Puckett. A few months ago, he did a segment on Track Aligners made by Model Tech of Swansea, UK. I purchased a couple of sets for use on my Fire Creek modules. (see photo). I'll write an article on in-

stalling them later.

Not T-TRAK related, but the company American Science & Surplus is closing down. I have purchased various items from them in the past. They offer novelty items, scientific supplies, craft and modeling supplies, and tools at discount prices. I have bought a soldering station, mini files, mini pliers of various types, and gag gifts for Christmas presents. The last day to order is September 7.



## DOWNSIZING

### Bill Wadsworth

As announced at the August meeting, I may have to move into smaller quarters which won't have room for my model layout and book collection. Therefore I've decided to give away my layout for free. It is a HO 4' x 7' table and has removable legs, making it easily portable. It includes all buildings, bridges, and a control panel with 2

power packs. Separately there are 13 engines and 24 cars available for very reasonable prices (at least half off). Also have numerous railroad books available for at least half prices. I am willing to negotiate. Please call me at 304-768-3266 if you are interested.



## Passenger Manifest John Harris, Membership Chair

For those who were unable to join us for the WMSRR, you missed a really nice trip. The weather was perfect and I believe a good

time was had by all. Coal Division members making the trip were Don Cipolla, Jerry Doyle, John Harris and wife Cathryn, Jim Moon and wife Mary Ann, Anthony Parrish, Herb Parsons, Tony Puccini, and Bill Stowe. The only real action photo opportunity was 1309 coming into the station from the engine facility under full steam, whistle blaring and bell clanging, an awesome display of power and grace. I hope someone took video case I was only doing still shots. (Editor's note: I watched it pull into the station on Virtual Railfan's YouTube channel, it was quite a show.)

There was plenty of time for stationary photos before departure as they readied the cars. Boarding was pretty efficient and soon we were on our way out of Cumberland. Passengers in coach had choice of closed or open air car. Seems like most chose open air. Lounge passengers were assigned seats that were quite comfortable. Those in the Lounge were treated to complimentary champagne and light snacks. Both quantity and quality were a little lacking. Choices from cash bar were a bit better and pours were more generous.

The journey to Frostburg was up hill soon after leaving

town and the ride was as expected, gently swaying back and forth with the steady click clack of sectional rails.

Arrival at Frostburg was right on schedule as we were greeted by several locals and sight seers. Choices for lunch at the station were somewhat limited although a free shuttle service was available to the downtown area of town at the top of the hill. Several of us took advantage of the small snack shack across from the turntable. I understand their ice cream was pretty good.

As the mallet would not fit comfortably on the out of service turntable, there was no turning of equipment and the train backed down the mountain on its return to Cumberland. While 1308 remained under steam, I suspect the diesel on the rear of the train did most of the work on the return. Once back in town, the group dispersed pretty quickly for the return trip home. Several suggested they were looking forward to pizza. Cathryn and I headed to Bridgeport for Italian at Oliverio's, one of our favorites along I-79.

I think everyone enjoyed the day and I was glad we made the trip. We will need to look into other opportunities for rail-fanning and enjoy more 1:1 scale trains. Meanwhile, we will continue to play with those of a smaller scale. I hope to see you at the September meeting and Mark's Crusty Mountain & Willoby Springs.



Western Maryland 1309 arriving at the Cumberland station prior to departure.

Photo by Jerry Doyle



Another view of WM 1309 from the other side as it approached the  
Cumberland station  
Photo by John Harris



In the cab, photo by John Harris



All photos this page by John Harris



The group prior to departure from Cumberland

Jim and Mary Ann Moon



Herb Price (left) and Don Cipolla MMR®

## 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](mailto:editor@coaldivision.org)

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

By Mark Suek

PARKERSBURG- The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club welcomed 107 guests and its Mid-Ohio Valley Railroad History Open House and received nice coverage from local television, newspaper and social media outlets. The club has turned its attention to its 30th Annual Fall Train Show, set for October 25 (10 am to 3 pm) at West Virginia University at Parkersburg's spacious student activities center. Most of the 110 available vendor tables have

been reserved. Lots of excellent model railroad equipment, accessories and memorabilia will be available. Admission is \$5 per person (under age 12 free) and there will be an on site food vendor. MOVIMRC is offering a bucket drawing and will have operating portable layouts in action. This is believed to be the third-largest model railroad show in West Virginia.

## My Word

Bob Weinheimer MMR®

Our celebration of the NMRA's 90th birthday came a few weeks before the actual event but as Sam Delauter has noted, we had a great picnic as well as a nice birthday cake. Jerry Doyle, in spite of technical obstacles, presented a very interesting history of the Coal Division in its current incarnation. I would like to suggest he repeat it sometime after we have the new projector, that will give folks a better opportunity to really see the photos.

At our August event I mentioned the forthcoming

new logo with a scheduled arrival of September 1. For a variety of reasons, some due to NMRA and some due to the vendor, the rollout has been delayed until November 1. I met with the Region Presidents while you were riding behind WM 1309. The fallout from that is that we anticipate some potential challenges with the idea of phasing out Division logos. Time will tell how that all works out.





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**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
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NORFOLK AND WESTERN



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**DIVISION (HO)**  
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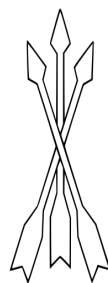
**CRUSTY**  
**MOUNTAIN**  
**AND**  
**WILOBY**  
**SPRINGS R.R.**

**Mark Maynard, President**  
 Portsmouth, OH



**CRESCENT VALLEY**

**Jerry Doyle, President**  
 Barboursville, WV

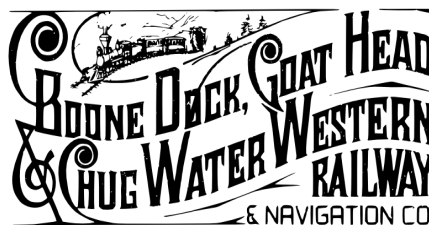


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**Under Construction**

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**

**September 13  
Hosted by Mark Maynard  
West Portsmouth, OH**

**October 11  
St. Albans Historical Society  
St. Albans, WV**

**November 8  
St. Albans Historical Society  
St. Albans, WV**

**December 14  
Location To Be Announced**

**January 10, 2026  
St. Albans Historical Society  
St. Albans, WV**

**February 14, 2026  
St. Albans Historical Society  
St. Albans, WV**