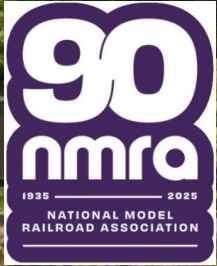




# UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

October 2025

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## FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Sam Delauter, Superintendent

At the September meeting, The Coal Division visited The Crusty Mountain and Willoby Springs RR. As always Mark Maynard and his family welcomed us to their home for great a day of running trains, a cook-out, and fellowship with our members. While it had been a few years, many of the members of Division 6 were in attendance at the event. It was good to see our friends from the neighboring division. Thank you to the Maynards for their hospitality and for a great day.

With 2025 coming to an end in a few months, we once again see a tradition of the Coal Division, the Memorial Challenge. This year we will be building the ITLA Scale Models Olympia Tool and Die. If you have not seen any of the ITLA kits, these are really nicely done kits. These kits are modular and can be built as a background flat or a full sized stand alone building. At the September meeting Robert distributed the kits. If you have not received yours, make sure you pick it up at the October meeting so that you will have enough time to complete the kit before our December meeting. In December, we will all display our models. As always, Robert has done an amazing job preparing this event for us and I look forward to building this great kit. Speaking of the December meeting, we will need to start making plans for our holiday event. Over the last few years we have met at Diehl's Restaurant. While the staff did a great job taking care of us, the location became less than ideal. Last year we moved the event to the St. Albans Historical Society. We will need to consider where we will hold the event this year.

Looking ahead, the Huntington Train show is coming up Thanksgiving weekend. Once again we will be in attendance with the T-TRAK and the NMRA booth. I am sure that Herb will have more to say at our meeting about this but I would urge all Coal Division members to attend if you are able. These train shows are always a lot fun to spend time with our fellow members and to get to be involved with the general public.

Our next meeting will be October 11th at the St. Albans Historical Society. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM and the doors will open at noon. The contest will be open loads and the clinic will be the Mini Clinic Event. I hope to see everyone there.

**DIVISION OFFICERS**

Superintendent  
Sam Delauter  
super@coalddivision.org

Assistant Superintendent  
Bill Stowe  
asstsuper@coalddivision.org

Clerk- Jerry Doyle  
304-638-2826  
clerk@coalddivision.org

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Achievement Program Chairmen  
Bob Weinheimer MMR®  
304-546-5896  
ap@coalddivision.org

Clinic  
Randy Allio  
clinic@coalddivision.org

Contest  
Don Cipolla MMR®  
Mark Maynard  
contest@coalddivision.org

Education  
Vacant

Election  
Bill Wadsworth  
304-768-3266  
nominating@coalddivision.org

Membership  
John Harris  
membership@coalddivision.org

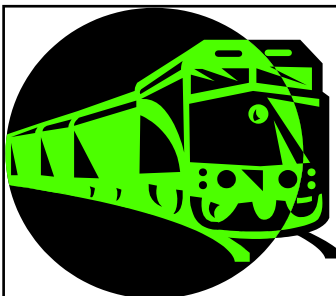
Raffle  
Tony Puccini  
raffle@coalddivision.org

T-TRAK  
Herb Parsons  
t-trak@coalddivision.org

**DIVISION STAFF**

Editor  
Bob Weinheimer MMR®  
editor@coalddivision.org

Webmaster  
Bob Weinheimer MMR®  
webmaster@coalddivision.org



## Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

**1:00 PM Saturday October 11**

**St. Albans Historical Society  
Division Membership Meeting**

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Contest: Open Loads**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Mini Clinics**

**Next Meeting  
November 8, 2025**

## NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

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

September 13, 2025  
Meeting Notes

### Superintendent's Report

Sam Delauter started by welcoming guests for Division 6 in Columbus. Several had made the trek to enjoy fellowship, run trains, and eat food. Motion was made and seconded to approve July minutes and published in the newsletter. Motion passed.

Assistant Superintendent: No report

Clerk: No report

Newsletter: Articles due September 29

Achievement Program: No report

Library: No report

Contest for month were photos. It was noted only 2 photos were submitted.

Herb Parsons updated plans for T-TRAK noted that MCR convention in Dayton is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> with 850 SF of space. Additionally the N scale conference is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> in Altoona, PA.

John Harris reported that membership remains unchanged at 40.

Tony Puccini reported that in lieu of our usual raffle, items had again been brought for silent auction and direct sales from inventory donated to the Division. At the time sales were \$360 in cash with another \$130 in IOU's. He noted that proceeds will be used to offset

costs of this year's Challenge.

Under Old Business, Sam noted per vote at previous meeting, a projector has now been purchased to help in future clinics.

Also under Old Business, Robert Osburn distributed 8 N scale kits from ITLA Scale Models and 10 HO kits. Robert briefly described the kits and then offered a history of the Challenge for those from Columbus. It was noted that no division funds are used for these projects. All funds come from sales, or donations of the generosity of Mr. Osburn.

There was no New Business

Under Announcements, Division 6 noted they have 2 cars that are available on their web site that may be of interest to our members.

Sam announced the next two meetings will be St. Albans Historical Society and note that location for the December meeting will be discussed further at the next meeting.

With no further announcements or business, a motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Harris

### 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.

- 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

## FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bill Stowe, Assistant Superintendent

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, for this month I was going to talk about the video library and some options for the future.

So let's start by refreshing everyone on what is in the video library. Contents are approximately as follows:

- 31 DVD's on a 'Dream, Plan, Build' series from Model Railroader
- 5 DVD's that I would categorize as railfan or historical of actual railroads
- 9 DVD's of layout tours
- 3 DVD's called 'Railroad Chronicles'
- 88 DVD's that are videos of presentations from NMRA conventions

All except the DVD's from the NMRA conventions are in a hard plastic cover. The NMRA DVD's are simply in a paper envelope.

I did touch base with Bob Weinheimer on whether the NMRA DVD's should be considered 'proprietary' (ie. For NMRA member use only), he did not see this as an issue. Age of these DVD's start within 1995, and end in 2006. Bill Wadsworth did have all these DVD's cataloged, I will bring copies of this to the meeting.

So my thoughts on options for the future of the video library (read 'or' between each option).

- We can simply continue as we have done, if someone is interested in taking over from Bill Wadsworth.
- Have a 'free for all' give away to Division 9 NMRA members.
- Donate the 'Dream, Plan, Build' series to a local public library to try to encourage people that are interested in getting into the hobby. Balance of the DVD's in plastic cases either donate or give to members. NMRA series to be open to members (as without hard cases I do not think they would be acceptable to a public library).
- Try to sell/raffle DVD's for a little cash for the group.

I have not contacted any public library as to interest (or if they still loan out DVD's). I wanted to have the discussion with the division first.

For the meeting, I will bring the box with the 'library' in it for those who want to look at the DVD's, and will look to have a short discussion during the meeting to get input on folk's thoughts.

## CLINICS

Randy Allio MMR®, Clinics Chair

- October: Mini Clinics
- ♦ November: David Oliverio: NMRA Convention Layout Tours
- ♦ December: Annual Challenge
- ♦ January Jerry Doyle

## Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

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## CONTEST

### Don Cipolla MMR® and Mark Maynard Contest Chairs

#### September 2025 Contest

The contest category for September was Photo, Model or Prototype. 2 entries were displayed and the results of the voting were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Herb Parsons – C&O Historical Society Special on the South Branch Valley RR at Green Spring, WV. July 2005
- 2nd place Herb Parsons – B&O GP96604 with the Potomac Eagle train near Romney, WV July 2005

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

The October contest category is: Open Loads.

The November contest category is: Passenger Cars.

Herb Parsons – C&O Historical Society Special



Herb Parsons – B&O GP9 6604 with the Potomac Eagle



### My Word Bob Weinheimer MMR®

I was not happy to have missed the usual fun at Mark's place but circumstances make it impossible.

When last I updated you on the NMRA branding project, the prospect of keeping our Division logo seemed dim. Well, there has been lots of feedback on that and now they may survive although they will be subject to style and color choices. One possibility is to have the NMRA logo on one lapel of a shirt with the Division logo on the other, let's see how that works out. Region logos are history. The first things to change will be the NMRA Magazine, the website, and social media. Other items will be more gradual but you should see those electronic items first. We will receive artwork and the like to get us set up on our newsletter and web site. I can't say more now but look for the November E-Bulletin for more details.

Another big project is Vision 2035 or where we want to be when the NMRA reaches its 100th birthday. You may be receiving a very brief member survey in the next couple of weeks. Please fill it out, it won't take very long

at all. It will for a baseline of opinion that will be used as a yardstick of member satisfaction. Similar but longer surveys will be aimed at Region Presidents and Division Superintendents throughout the NMRA.

At our June meeting I presented a program on documenting your holdings. I mentioned a piece of software I liked but got away from as the creator was in poor health. Since then he has passed away but his widow wants to see it continue. Model Railroad Hobbyist, the free digital magazine published by Joe Fugate, has worked with her to make this happen and it will be free. This software not only helps you document your collection but it can also be used to prepare waybills and more. To download the software, you need to be a member of the MRH Forum which, I think, requires a subscription to the magazine. The magazine is free so this is not a big limitation. Learn more [here](#). On this page you will also see something about another publication called Running Extra. That is not free but it's not very expensive.



## T-TRAK

### Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

I attended the Mike Phillips N Scale Weekend in Altoona, PA. sponsored by the Altoona Association of Model Railroaders September 20 & 21. I took 3 modules and set up with the combined T-TRAK layout. The combined layout consisted of 102 individual modules, 184 single equivalent modules, making 198 feet of double track mainline making an estimated 6 scale miles in a layout that was 40'X27'.

The Iron City N Scales T-TRAK was twice the size of last years with new modules and new members participating. there were also T-TRAK layouts from other groups and individuals. One group came down from Ontario, Canada.

There were N Trak layouts from Huntington, WV's

AMRS, Lynchburg, VA, Baltimore, MD and Twin Tiers. Freemo N setup in a separate room and received a lot of attention.

Thirty vendors had tables and were selling new and used N Scale rolling stock, locomotives and buildings. Yankee Dabbler, Atlas, Scale trains, Mudd Creek Models, Rail Scale Models and more.

As a reminder, The AMRS Model Railroad Show is coming up in November, and it is time to get our modules ready. Let me know if you will be available to setup your T-TRAK module and the size of each so that I can let the AMRS know how much room we will need.

## 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.

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

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club  
By Mark Suek

**PARKERSBURG-** The Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club is embarking on its busiest time of the year with its two biggest fundraisers coming up soon.

First, MOVIMRC will host its 30th annual Fall Train Show on October 25 at West Virginia University's Parkersburg campus. Hours are 10-3 and this will be long-time member Tom Ratkovich's final ride as show chairman. All 110 vendor tables have been reserved for the show. Easy access off Interstate 77. MOVIMRC will have an on-site food vendor, plenty of free parking and conduct a bucket drawing at the show.

Second, the club will conduct its annual nomination of officers at its November meeting and finalize next year's slate of leaders with the election at the December meeting.

Also in December, MOVIMRC will host its annual Christmas Open House on the 6th from 10-6 at the club facility as part of Downtown PKB's Winterfest celebration and then enjoy its annual Christmas Dinner on the 9th at a local restaurant.

## Passenger Manifest

### John Harris, Membership Chair

Here is a shout out to Mark Maynard and his wife for hosting our September meeting. As usual the, food and the ice cream were delicious and we were again treated to wonderful weather. It was also great to see so many members of Division 6 of the Mid-Central Region at our meeting. I particularly enjoyed the discussions of how their meetings are structured. Likewise, I think they enjoyed the exchange on how our Gary Burdette Challenge has evolved over the years. It is always good to have feedback from our peers and share ideas on improving how things are done in the future. I hope we continue to reach out to other divisions and include them in our meetings.

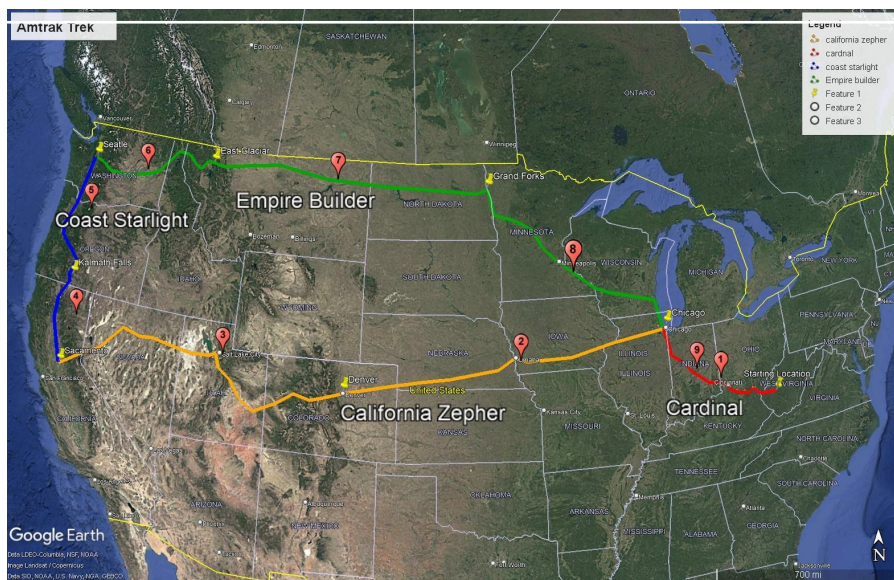
It was also good to once again operate on Mark's Crusty Mountain & Wiloby Springs Railroad. Particularly gratifying was the fact that our newest Coal Division member Nathan Dollison had never operated on a real model railroad other than virtually on computer. I was pleased with how quickly he picked up on how it was done and proceeded to understand train movements and switching. I am sure he thoroughly enjoyed it and is looking forward to other operating opportunities. It is great to see someone getting out of their comfort zone and expanding their skills. As I have said before, I believe one of the great benefits to membership in NMRA is to expend our skill sets and try something new.

With the distribution of this year's Gary Burdette Challenge kit, we have one more opportunity to try something new. While I have done several laser cut craftsman kits in the past, these ITLA kits look a bit different. I am guessing that there are several who have not done one of these in the past so it is another chance to try something new. And, the kit can be assembled in several configurations so it will be interesting to see how many variations we will have come December.

Personally, I am beginning to look into the possibility of making an Amtrak Trek across the country next spring. While I have traveled to New Mexico on the Southwest Chief several years ago, I have never planned something quite so ambitious. So much so that my usual travel companion, the wife, suggest I am free to take this trek on my own. The plan is to take the Cardinal to Chicago, then California Zephyr west to Sacramento, with a stop perhaps in Denver. From there I will be taking the Coast Starlight to Seattle with a day or two side trip to Crater Lake and Redwoods National parks. Return will be via the Empire Builder stopping off at East Glacier before returning to Chicago, then CHW. All together this will take 2 weeks. It's a little aggressive perhaps so I understand my wife's reluctance to set out on such a trek, particularly since I am planning to do this all in coach! Planned stops are scheduled both for sightseeing and overnight motel stays to freshen-up.

I am curious if anyone has undertaken such a trip or has traveled on any part of these trains. I welcome any feedback as this is in the initial planning stages and subject to change. I have plenty of time to iron out the details but for now, this seems doable. Amtrak's rail pass allows 10 legs of travel with-in a 30 day window, all for \$499. This works out to be 9 such legs so I have room for one more stop off somewhere along the way. I have included a map showing the proposed itinerary.

I will be traveling to Florida for the entire month of October for our annual pilgrimage so I will be joining you remotely for the next meeting. Plans are to return the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November so I should be able to join you in person for the November meeting. That said the Passenger Manifest may be missing from the next "Up the Holler". Regardless, keep modeling and I hope to see you soon.







**Midland Atlantic**  
**Anthony Parrish, CEO**  
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN



**PIPESTEM BASEMENT**  
**DIVISION (HO)**  
**DAN MULHEARN**  
 304-466-9188  
 danmulhearn@gmail.com



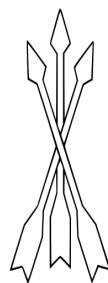
**CRUSTY**  
**MOUNTAIN**  
**AND**  
**WILOBY**  
**SPRINGS R.R.**

**Mark Maynard, President**  
 Portsmouth, OH



**CRESCENT VALLEY**

**Jerry Doyle, President**  
 Barboursville, WV



**THREE ARROWS**  
**RAILROAD**

**Tony Puccini, President**  
 6 Garwood Drive Huntington, WV 25705  
 puccinibaj@hotmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**SOUTHERN**

**Bob Weinheimer, President**  
 398 Mount View Drive Charleston, WV 25314  
 www.pennsylvaniasouthern.com



**Ed Keith, MMR**  
 Assistant Superintendent  
 Chesapeake, OH



**LAKESIDE LINES RAILROAD**

**Thomas K. Harris, President and CEO**

274 S. Wye Rd., Wytheville, VA 24382  
 tharris@va.net

(276)620-3493  
 www.lakesidelines.com



**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**

**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**