



COAL DIVISION

UP THE HOLLER

DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

May 2026

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Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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Since our calendars have changed to May, that means it’s that time of year again. The Steel Is King event is upon us. Once again, our gracious hosts in Parkersburg have invited the Coal Division to make a trip north. On May 9th, Dave Stout of Parkersburg, Paul LaPointe of Waverly and the MOV Model Railroad Club will be open for us to visit. Our meeting will start at 1pm as normal but will be at Paul Lapointe’s home. Make sure to stop and visit Dave Stout’s layout while on your way to Paul’s. After the meeting, make sure to visit the MOV Model Railroad Club before you leave town. Speaking of the meeting, Paul will be providing us lunch before the meeting. I would also like to keep the meeting short to give everyone plenty of time to see the layouts. Since this meeting is out of town and not at our regular location, this is a great opportunity to car pool with your fellow members. I’ve had some great times going to these meetings with my fellow Coal Division members.

While I was unable to be at the last meeting, I did get word that the group working on the Memorial Challenge made some good progress on planning this event. I spoke with Robert and we will resume work on this at the June meeting. I look forward to this event and was happy to hear about the progress made.

The 2026 MCR convention is coming up quickly. The convention is June 4th-7th, 2026 in Dayton, OH. If you have not signed up for the convention, there is still time. The convention is always a great time and a great time to spend with your fellow Coal Division members.

I would like to take a moment to thank some people. In my absence, Bill Stowe ran the meeting for me. David Oliverio took care of meeting with the St. Albans Historical Society to get the building key and also met me to get the agendas and the TV. Also thanks to Robert and everyone that helped with the memorial challenge. I also heard that the Mini Clinics Event went well with David, Robert Osburn, and Mark Maynard giving clinics. I hope that I have not missed anyone but thank you to everyone who helped out and thank you to the division for everything each of you do.

Our next meeting will be May 9th at Paul LaPointe’s home in Waverly. (see flier with directions on page 8) The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. We will not have a clinic at this meeting. Make sure to also allot enough time to visit Dave Stout’s layout and also visit the MOV Model Train Club. The Challenge for May is “Anything Steel Related”. I look forward to seeing all of you at the May meeting and visiting these great layouts.

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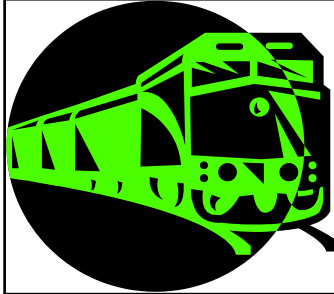
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Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

1:00 PM Saturday May 9

Steel is King

Waverly, WV

Zoom Meeting
Time: May 9, 2026 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82541777677>

Meeting ID: 825 4177 7677

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Challenge: Anything Steel**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Raffle (always need new items)**
- **Layout Operation**

**Next Meeting
June 13, 2026**

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV
April 11, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Assistant Superintendent Bill Stowe at 1:05 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

March minutes were approved.
Treasury Balance is \$10,130.56
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$41.
Pike Ads \$0.

Superintendent Report

Sam was unable to be at today's meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Bill Stowe updated everyone on the disposition of the video library.

Newsletter - Up the Holler

John Harris worked with Bob Weinheimer on production of the newsletter. John noted the deadline of April 25 for the newsletter. The address for contributions is editor@coaldivision.org.

Achievement Program

Don Cipolla will be working with Bob Weinheimer on turning over the AP Chair role.

Library

No report.

Clinic

Randy was unavailable for today's meeting.

Model Bring and Brag

Today's category is kitbashing. Next month will be steel related models for the Steel Is King meeting.

Membership

John Harris welcomed Roger Copen and Robert Bane to our division. There is a small number of shirts available, price is \$25. Name badges are currently on hold pending a redesign of the division logo to be in compliance with the new NMRA logo design.

Raffle

Tony mentioned there were several train items at the raffle table. He mentioned that the funds generated usually pay for the meeting space.

T-Track

Herb Parsons asked anyone planning to take modules to the Dayton MCR convention to contact him to plan transportation to allow Bruce DeMaeyer to plan the display. He also updated members on plans for the NMRA National convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Education

No report.

Old Business

Robert Osburn mentioned that the newly-formed Memorial Challenge committee is meeting after the main meeting today.

New Business

David Oliverio distributed a proposal for a new AP certificate from Randy Allio. Randy is seeking feedback on the proposal.

Announcements

Mark Maynard mentioned that we have been having the September picnic at his place for 20 years.

Future Meetings:

May 9 – “Steel is King” Parkersburg, WV
June 13 – “Silver is King”, Don Cipolla’s Hurricane, WV
August 8 – Picnic on the Platform St Albans, WV
September 12 – Mark Maynard’s Portsmouth, OH

Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

John Harris, Assistant Superintendent

Let me start off by thanking Bill Stowe for his service as Assistant Superintendent over the last two years. He has provided me with advice and encouragement as we make the transition and I step into this new role. I hope to build on the past work all my predecessors have started over the years and not drop the ball.

My goal first and foremost is simply support Sam Delauter in his duties as Superintendent. Sam has things well in control as we move into his second tenure. I look forward to assisting him in continuing to grow the division and making current members feel there is a real benefit to being to being part of the Coal Division. We can not do that without the support of the all of you. It truly takes the efforts of many of you each month to pull this off. We have a great group of officers and committee chairs and I am so thankful for all that have stepped up to

volunteer to take on those tasks. As I step away from Membership Chair, I know things are in good hands with Dale Osburn taking over those duties. I am sure he will bring fresh ideas to supporting members and recruiting for NMRA.

Ironically, as I move into this new role, I will miss the first meeting in my new capacity. I believe most of you know I will be touring the country on Amtrak. On May 9th I will have arrived at Klamath Falls, Oregon after an overnight journey on the Coast Starlight #14. I will be headed to Crater Lake National Park and I hope to be able to join you via Zoom. We will see if that works out.

Regardless, I plan to document the trek and perhaps even provide a future article or even a clinic on the adventure.

CLINICS

Randy Allio MMR®, Clinics Chair

Clinic Schedule for 2026

- ◆ May: No clinic-Steel is King Road Trip
 - ◆ June: Don Cipolla, Prototype Modeling
 - ◆ July: Randy Allio, Tips for building Craftsman kits
 - ◆ August: John Harris, Rock Castings
 - ◆ September: No Clinic-Crusty Road Trip
 - ◆ October: Mark Maynard
- ◆ November: Bob Osburn
 - ◆ December: Challenge

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.

- May: April 27
- June: June 1
- July: June 29
- August: July 27
- September: August 31

My Word

John Harris, Editor

As I work on this first issue of Up the Holler, I ask for your patience as we make the transition from Bob Weinheimer, MMR® to me John Harris. I realize I have very big shoes to follow as Bob has done a remarkable job for so many years. Bob took us from a simple printed, mostly black and white newsletter that was mailed out over snail mail to a color multiple page publication emailed across the country. Up The Holler has been recognized as one of the best division Newsletters within NMRA.

Bob allowed me to set in and look over his shoulder as he put together the April issue. While this would be his last issue, I hope to be able to lean on him for advice and comments as I do not want to lessen the quality of what he has started. As I told Bob, I have no plans to fix what isn't broken. I look to continue what he has started.

Meanwhile, give me a chance to learn the ropes from the master and get used to publishing this fine newsletter.

CHALLENGE**Don Cipolla MMR® and Mark Maynard, Challenge Chairs****April 2026 Modelers Challenge**

The Challenge category for April was Kitbashing/Scratchbuilt (anything railroad related). Four entries were displayed.

The May Challenge category is: Anything Steel Related.

The June Challenge category is: Non-Revenue

2026	Monthly Model Challenge
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

Jerry Doyle — Crescent Valley RS3 — GP rebuild



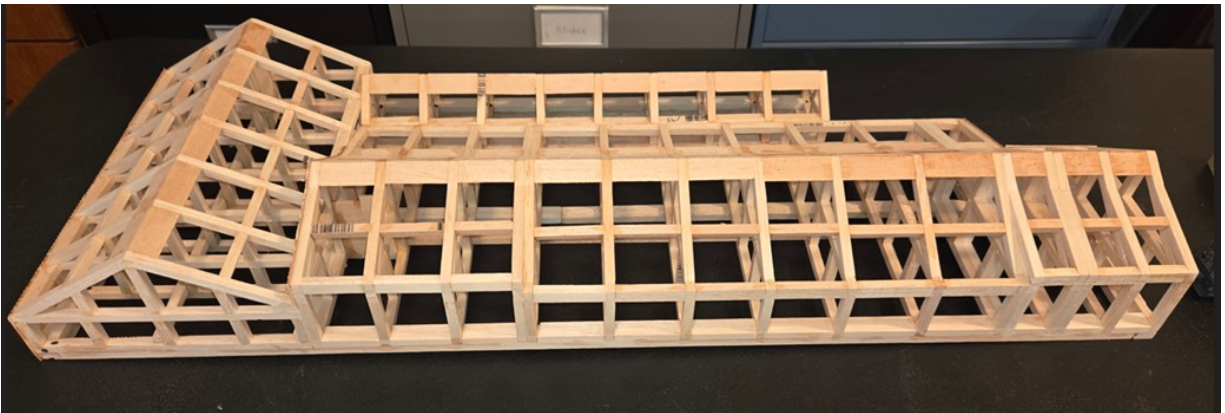
Mark Maynard — 3D Printed transformer



Tony Parrish — Wood sided gondola



Don Cipolla — Santiago mill under construction



Passenger Manifest Dale Osburn, Membership Chairman

I want to thank John Harris for his kind words and willingness to help as I assume the chairing of the membership for Division 9. I have been a member for several years and have gathered with an extraordinary group of great modelers. We have enjoyed plenty of good times and laughter along the way. So how did I find the group? I was introduced to the Division 9 group by Robert Osburn. One meeting and I was hooked. Everyone has treated me like an old friend. I can honestly say, I have built some very solid friendships and brought my models from the basement to the tabletops at meetings. You will never improve your modeling skills if you're not around others who can offer advice and knowledge.

As I move along in this new position with Division 9, I want to challenge each member to bring a guest, tell others about this great hobby that makes life so much better! I believe the future of model railroading needs to be passed forward (by the older folks).

We still have 5 shirts with Division 9 logo. Shirts remain \$25.00 each which was our cost. Sizes available:

- 2 L with pocket
- 2 2XL with pocket
- 1 2XL without pocket

Shirts will be available at Parkersburg meeting for anyone interested. Check with Sam Delauter.

New name tags are presently on hold until we can update our logo to conform to new NMRA standards.

As of May 2026, our Division 9 has 39 active members.

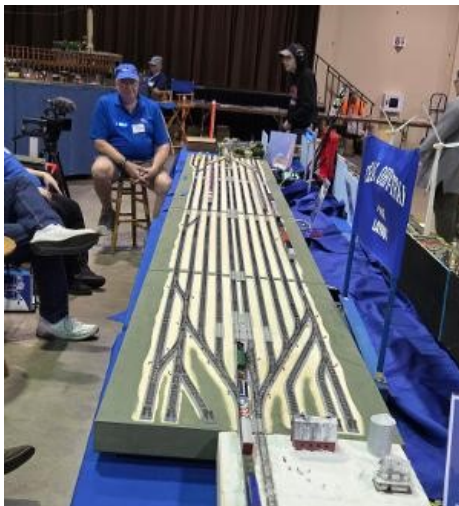
T-TRAK Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

First, for the T-TRAK layout for the MCR Convention in Dayton, Ohio, Don Cipolla, David Oliverio and Herb Parsons have confirmed that they are taking T-TRAK modules. If you are interested in having your T-TRAK modules in the convention layout let me know so that I can tell Bruce Demayer how many modules to expect.

Second, The 17th annual Ohio N Scale Weekend

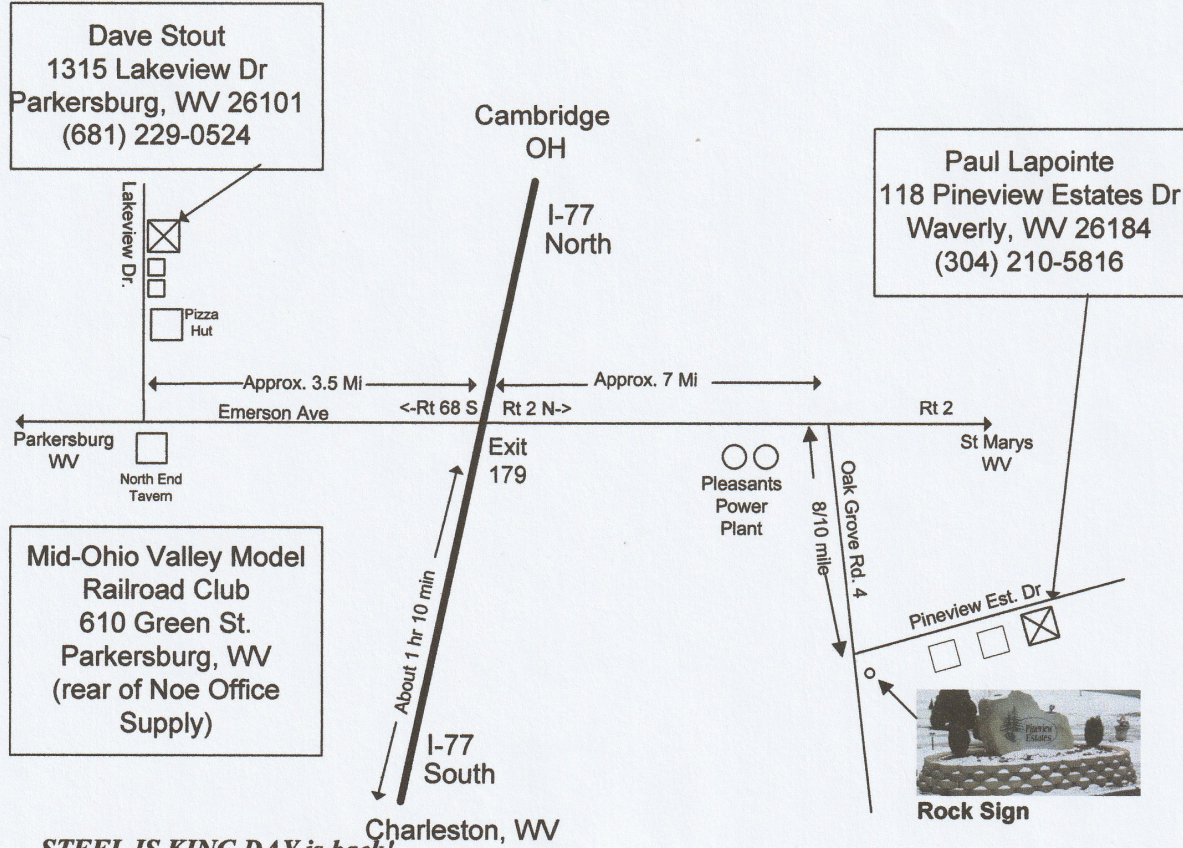
will be May 15 - 17, 2026 at the Marion County Fairgrounds in Marion, Ohio. The hours are Saturday May 16th 10am to 5 pm, Sunday 9am to 3pm.

Last, I drove to Columbus, Ohio 4/25 for the Model Railroad Show and Sale. there were not as many vendors as in past years, but I still found N-scale items for my layouts. I have attached couple of photos of the Central Ohio N Track clubs T-TRAK layout.



Steel Is King Day

May 9, 2026



STEEL IS KING DAY is back!

There's plenty of steel mill action in Parkersburg on May 9th, 2026 on Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe's layouts as part of the NMRA Division 9 monthly meeting. Both layouts are multi-level and feature heavy steel-related industry. Dave's layout is highly detailed and fully scened and Paul's Pittsburgh & Western RR includes operation and animation. As a bonus, the local Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club will have it's doors open from 9am to noon. The club features all the popular scales.

Both Dave and Paul will have their steel mill layouts open at 9:00 AM for your inspection. Dave is at 1315 Lakeview Drive in Parkersburg. Paul is at 118 Pineview Estates Dr. in Waverly. Both will have NMRA layout tour signs leading to their houses.

Dave will close his layout before noon so everyone can gather at Paul's house for lunch at noon followed by the NMRA Division 9 business meeting at 1 PM. The meeting contest will be any steel related models. Paul's layout will remain open until 3pm.

As an extra attraction, this year there is a special open house at the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club at the rear of Noe Office Supply, 610 Green Street, Parkersburg. It's a multi-scale club with large scenic layouts in HO, N, O, and G scales.

Dave and Paul look forward to seeing you on the 9th!

Dave's layout 9am-noon (681) 229-0524.
Paul's layout from 9am-3pm (304) 210-5816.
MOVRRRC Club Layout 9am to noon

Upcoming Coal Division Events

May 9, 2026
Steel is King
Paul Lapointe's home
Waverley, WV

June 13, 2026
Don Cipolla's home
Hurricane, WV

July 11, 2026
Randy Allio's Home
Elkview, WV

August 8
Picnic on the Platform
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV

September 12
Hosted by Mark Maynard
West Portsmouth, OH

October 10
St. Albans Historical Society
St. Albans, WV



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NORFOLK AND WESTERN




PIPESTEM BASEMENT
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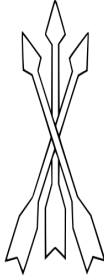
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

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
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Allegheny & 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