



COAL DIVISION

UP THE HOLLER

DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

July 2026

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

For Sam Delauter, Superintendent

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The June meeting was a bit of a “lets make this work” kind of meeting. Don Cipolla, MMR was forced to postpone our scheduled “Silver is King” visit to Hurricane due to the recent passing of his father. That left us with a need to dust off an old scenery clinic John Harris had not presented since 2010 or so. Then, Sam Delauter was a little fatigued from recent treatments he is undergoing and John stepped in to run the meeting as his first official duty after becoming Assistant Superintendent. Division 9 Clerk, Jerry Doyle had the opportunity to operate on one of the premier layouts in the country and had an “excused work related commitment” so Dale Osburn stepped in to take minutes for the meeting. There was no Zoom meeting as those that normally set it up and bring the needed equipment were not available. And with everything going on, attendance was a bit down as vacation season has started, which perhaps explained the lack of Challenge entries for the month.

Still, we muddled through it and everyone there enjoyed the day and fellowship. Bob Osburn reported that the committee on the Memorial Challenge has selected a resin flatcar kit for this year’s project. I am sure this will lead to some interesting options for those wanting to add an open load or two to the process.

July returns us to Randy Allio’s for operations, rail fanning and food as Randy and Janet will again be serving lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by our regular meeting and a clinic on Building Craftsman Kits. The day promises to be full of model railroading as I am sure Randy has added a craftsman kit or two to his layout since we were last there. For directions and more information, see the announcement later in this Newsletter.

The National Model Railroad Association convention is coming up the last week in July in Chattanooga. While it is a 6 and a half hour drive from the Charleston area, it is still relatively close and well worth the drive. I am sure car pooling opportunities still exist for anyone wishing to attend. I look forward to seeing all of you at the July Coal Division meeting.

DIVISION OFFICERS

Superintendent
Sam Delauter
super@coaldivision.org

Assistant Superintendent
John Harris
asstsuper@coaldivision.org
AandNRR@aol.com

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Achievement Program Chairmen
Don Cipolla MMR®
304-757-5524
ap@coaldivision.org

Clinic
Randy Allio MMR®
clinic@coaldivision.org

Challenge
Don Cipolla MMR®
Mark Maynard
contest@coaldivision.org

Education
Vacant

Election
Dale Osburn
nominating@coaldivision.org

Membership
Dale Osburn
membership@coaldivision.org

Raffle
Tony Puccini
raffle@coaldivision.org

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

DIVISION STAFF

Editor
John Harris
editor@coaldivision.org

Webmaster
Matt Kearns
webmaster@coaldivision.org



Coal Division Monthly Railfun Event

1:00 PM Saturday, July 11, 2026

hosted by Randy Allio MMR®

See map on page 7

Zoom Meeting

Time: Jul 11, 2026 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82437480575>

- 10AM layout opens.
- Noon Lunch Provided by Randy and Janet Allio
- 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
- Challenge: Structures
- Adjourn Business Meeting
- 5 Minute Break
- Raffle (always need new items)
- Clinic by Randy Allio MMR®

“Tips for Building Craftsman Kits”

Next Meeting

August 8, 2026

Picnic on the Platform

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St. Albans Historical Society

St. Albans, WV

June 13th 2026

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Assistant Superintendent John Harris at 1:00 p.m.

Division Clerk Report

No report

Superintendent Report

Sam was unable to be at today's meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report

John Harris spoke about his Amtrak trip and reminded everyone about discounts for RailPass trips on Amtrak. Best to make plans in January for the reduced rates.

Newsletter – Up the Holler

John reminded everyone of the June 29, 2026 deadline for the newsletter.

Achievement Program

Don Cipolla, MMR stated that Paul Lapointe was working on his Structure AP certificate.

Library

No report.

Clinic

John Harris gave a clinic on Scenery on the A&NRR.

Model Bring and Brag

No entries.

Membership

Dale Osburn gave an update of current members and reminded everyone about the August cookout which is for recruitment.

We are currently taking orders for name badges. Please submit your information to membership chairman, Dale Osburn. Include your name, city and state where you reside. Cost should remain in the \$10 to \$12 range

Raffle

Tony Puccini mentioned the various items for the raffle and also stated there were free DVD's on the table.

T – TRAK

Herb Parsons told the group that there were 60 to 70

modules at the Dayton convention.

Education

No report.

Old Business

2028 MCR Convention - John continued discussion on potential of hosting the Mid Central Region convention for 2028. After extended conversation and input from several members, it was the consensus of those present that Division 9 does not have the staffing to host such an event.

2026 Memorial Challenge Robert Osburn stated that a plan is in place for the December challenge. Resin car kits should be available first of October.

Web Hosting - Matt Kearns stated that he will have more to share with the group at a later date after further discussion with Bob Weinheimer, MMR.

New Business

Signup sheet was provided by Robert Osburn for items needed at the cookout in August. List will be available at the July meeting. The list will be recirculated at the July meeting and added to the August newsletter as a reminder to those who signed up .

Announcements

2026 NMRA Convention – Chattanooga, TN – July 27 – August 2nd.

Future Meetings:

July 11, 2026 - Randy Allio's – Elkview, WV

August 8, 2026 - Picnic on the Platform - St. Albans, WV

September 12, 2026 - Mark Maynard's - Portsmouth, OH

November 14, 2026 - Don Cipolla's "Silver is King" Hurricane, WV

December 12, 2026 - Memorial Challenge—TBD

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Osburn, Division 9 Membership Chair

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

John Harris, Assistant Superintendent

The 2026 National Model Railroad Association National Convention in Chattanooga, TN is rapidly approaching. This years event is July 27th through August 2nd at the Chattanooga Convention Center. This will mark my first trip to this scenic and historic city in south-central Tennessee, while it will be my 6th or so national convention.

You might ask, why attend a national NMRA convention, particularly if you have not attended one before? Well first, it is a great opportunity to see a bunch of model railroad layouts and trains. There are always plenty of layout tours and open houses available during the week to visit and for some, opportunities to participate in Operations sessions.

But beyond that, there are multiple activities during the course of the week to allow members, and their families, to take a deeper dive into different aspects of the hobby. One of my favorites is to sit in on the numerous clinics presented each day, some by well known and published modelers from across the country. Generally the hard part is to decide which ones to attend when several of interest be held at the same time. This year, Division 9 of the MCR will

again have a presenter or two. Beyond that, there are opportunities to “Model with the Masters” and participate in hands on model building the NMRA Master Model Railroaders on various types of projects.

Additionally there are generally off site tours of rail and industrial facilities in the area where you can observe real time, full scale operations. And there are always activities of interest for those in the family that might not hold the same fascination for trains. These may include tours to historic sites or other points of interest in the area.

Then, the week concludes with the National Train Show. A large gathering manufactures and suppliers of everything related to model railroading. Get first looks at new product releases and the latest in technology to enhance the hobby. All included in the price of attending.

Whether you are new to the hobby or a seasoned modeler, there is always something for you at a national convention. If you have not been before, I encourage you to consider attending this year or one in the near future.

CLINICS

Randy Allio, MMR®, Clinics Chair

Clinic Schedule for 2026

- ◆ July: Randy Allio, Tips for Building Craftsman Kits
- ◆ August: John Harris, Rock Castings
- ◆ September: No Clinic-Crusty Road Trip
- ◆ October: Mark Maynard
- ◆ November: Don Cipolla, Prototype Modeling
- ◆ December: Memorial Challenge

CHALLENGE

Don Cipolla MMR® and Mark Maynard, Challenge Chairs

June 2026 Modelers Challenge

The Challenge category for June was Non-revenue. No entries were displayed.

July - Structures

August—Railroad Electronics

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

Passenger Manifest Dale Osburn, Membership Chairman

Four years ago, we moved into a new house. I gave up a basement layout in which I had started a small switching layout based on the C&O coal railroads of the 1960's.

I decided that I had limited space for a layout which would be in a spare room on the 2nd floor. I knew I did not want the mess or dust in a new home so I started looking at buying a preformed layout for the area.

After many emails to Reynauld's Euro Imports and being told that Atlas Track would not work on the preformed layout, I decided to take a chance or challenge and see if I could make this work.

I ordered the Noch Koenigsfeld preformed train layout. It took about a month to get the delivery to my house. There was some work involved just unpackaging the layout from the large cardboard and wooden crate. After this was completed, the instruc-

tions were clear on how to put together all of the sections and wooden supports. One note about this item shipping was not cheap. Total shipping cost was \$300.00.

If this has sparked an interest, please see the contact information below.

Reynaulds Euro Imports Inc.
122 North Main street, Elburn, Il 60119
Phone 630-365-6340
www.reynaulds.com

Next month, I will explain the process of building the layout.

As of July 2026, Division 9 has 39 active members. Please remember that August is our recruitment month. Please be thinking of someone you can be bring to our luncheon who has an interest in model railroading.

T-TRAK Herb Parsons, T-TRAK Chair

First, a report on the T-TRAK layout at the MCR Whistle Stop Convention in Dayton, Ohio. There were 70 modules in the layout that was set up with an operation peninsula. 10 people took advantage and ran a train and switched on the layout. Photos attached.

Second, the National Convention is coming up in a month, starting July 27, 2026, with the National Train

Show on August 1 & 2, 2026 with the world's largest T-TRAK layout. Be sure to go in and look it over.

Third, on September 12 & 13, 2026 is the Altoona N Scale Weekend in Altoona, PA.

Consider going up and look around, if you are into N scale, you can find anything you may need there.





My Word John Harris, Editor

I continue to be pleased with the promptness that all contributors get their articles and input to me for each issue of Up the Holler. I generally send out a reminder to all on Thursday before the deadline just as a “tickle note” so the deadline does not sneak up on them. Most have gotten the information to me before the end of the day. That helps me to get a draft completed over the weekend and issued early on Monday for all to review. Again, most have comments back to me that same day which allows me to get the final version edited and ready for distribution in a very timely manner.

I am continuing to look for possibilities to expand the newsletter. I myself miss the “Meet the Modeler”

articles were included in Up the Holler a few years back. That was a great way to get to know our members. If you were not included in this exercise previously, I encourage you to consider working on future article. It is not like you are expected to provide a complete autobiography or even a resume. It is just a written conversation about how you got into the hobby, what you model, and what are you looking to accomplish with the hobby in the near future. You do not even have to have a layout. And you need not have professional writing skills. I can work with you to take raw thoughts and comments and turn them into an article. Reach out to Dale Osburn as Membership Chairman or myself if you feel this might be a good opportunity to let us know who you really are.

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. However, with the National NMRA Convention beginning on July 27th I need to make an adjustment in the deadline for the August newsletter to allow for the final version and distribution to occur before I leave town. Therefore the August deadline is Tuesday, July 21st with final editing by the 23rd for distribution on Friday the 24th.

Other deadlines remain unchanged which I need articles for the coming year.

- August: July 21
- September: August 31
- October: September 28
- November: November 2
- December: November 30

JULY 11 COAL DIVISION MEETING DIRECTIONS

Janet and I will be honored to have you visit for the July 11 Meeting. I will be available from 10 AM until whenever you want to leave. We can do tours of my woodshop and check on progress on my double deck On30 Layout. Food and beverage will be available with lunch beginning at 12:00 noon.

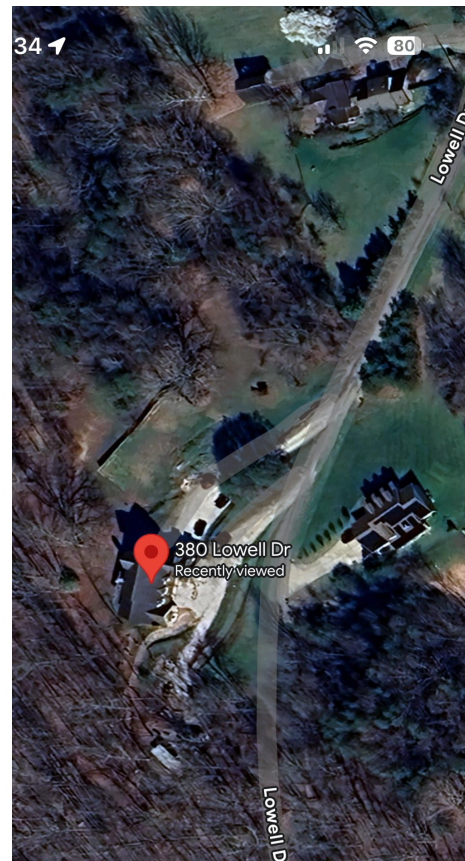
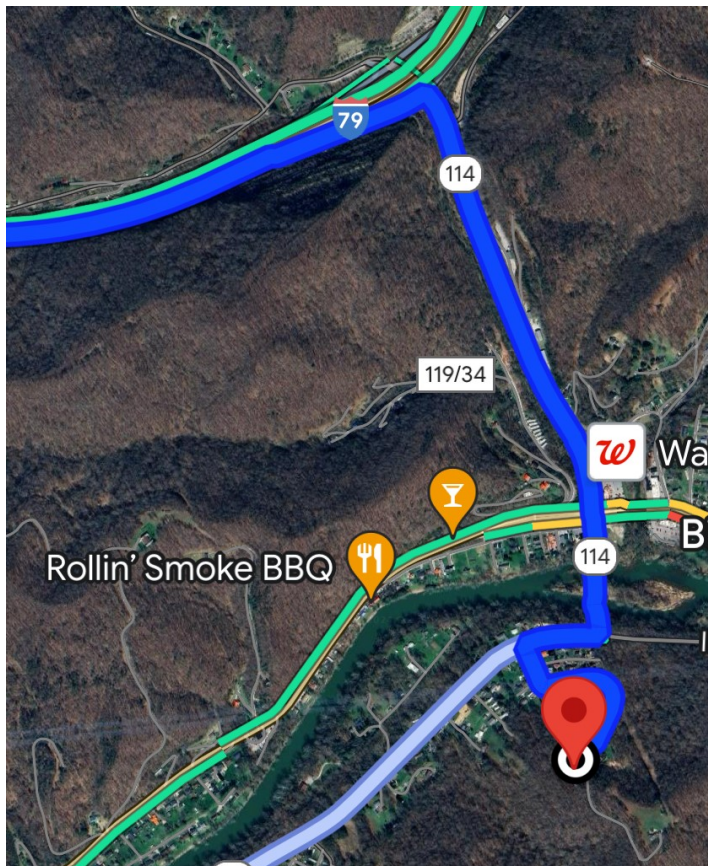
Directions: North bound I-79 Get off exit 5 and turn right. Proceed to four way stop. Go straight across bridge and turn right at the light. Go about 300 yards and turn left on Lowell Dr. Proceed up the hill till you come to a gravel drive on the right. Turn in and you are here. If this drive is full more parking on second driveway on up the hill.

GPS

380 Lowell Dr. Elkview, WV

If lost call 304-389-6445

Randy Allio



To the left is a map showing directions for the last little bit. To the right is a better view without the heavy blue line. Zoom in as necessary.

Upcoming Coal Division Events

July 11

**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**

November 14

**Silver is King
Don Cipolla's home
Hurricane, WV**

December 12

**Memorial Challenge
Location to be determined**




Midland Atlantic
Anthony Parrish, CEO
 tony765@aol.com

NORFOLK AND WESTERN




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



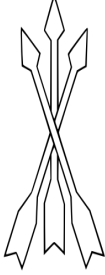
CRUSTY MOUNTAIN AND WILOBY SPRINGS R.R.

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 (276)620-3493
 tharris@va.net 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