



UP THE HOLLER

Newsletter of Division 9
THE COAL DIVISION
MID CENTRAL REGION NMRA INC
August 2018



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FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Dan Mulhearn, Superintendent

I hear you all had a wonderful July event and picnic. I was away, in Batavia, NY, celebrating Toni Lynn's birthday with her friends from the dog show circuit. We stayed in a house about a mile from the former NYC, later Conrail, Chicago line. CSX now operates this line and it seemed that the sound of trains blowing for the crossing at Seven Springs Rd. was constant. We got to ride the Arcade & Attica tourist train behind a beautifully maintained GE 44 tonner in ancient Lackawanna Boonton coaches. We had a dinner cruise on Lake Skaneateles to celebrate Toni Lynn's birthday. If you think of New York as the downstate metropolitan area, western New York will amaze you. It is more like Ohio farm country than anything else. I had always thought that western New York state area had two seasons: winter and the fourth of July weekend. But every day we were there it was 90 degrees and humid. One day I walked down to the Highway 5 overpass of the Chicago line hoping to get a few pictures. Someone called 911 and said there was a man getting ready to jump off the bridge. So, I got to meet the deputy sheriff sent to save me. When I told him I was a retired cop from Long Island we spent a pleasant twenty minutes exchanging cop talk. He may have been talked into considering West Virginia for his upcoming retirement.

Once again, this month I will be leaving our event in the capable hands of Bob Osburn. On the day of our event, I will be in Kansas City and enjoying the candy store that is the National Train Show. September will see us gathering at Portsmouth, Ohio at Mark Maynard's home and looking forward to seeing all of you there. Don't forget September is our annual opportunity to sell your no longer wanted model train equipment, an event which helps the Division financially. Of course, we now have our Company Store at every meeting. Don't forget the raffle either, we donate the funds accumulated to help SACOMM pay for the maintenance and utilities on the St. Albans depot building. See you in September.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Bob Osburn, Assistant Superintendent

The July meeting and picnic was moved outdoors because of the excessive heat and construction being done at the depot. We all retreated to the shade on the rail side of the depot in an attempt to stay cool. Dale Osburn suffered in the 90° heat as the grill master for the picnic, but we heard no complaints coming from him as he grilled the hamburgers and hot dogs. I would like to thank everyone who attended the picnic and helped with all the fixings, I'm sure no one went home hungry!

After the picnic we had a short business meeting and then learned a lot about cloud formations from two very interesting clinic presenters.

Larry Richards wants to thank everyone who brought structures for the July contest and MADD session. This was probably the largest number of entries we have ever had and the quality and workmanship that went into these structures was fantastic. The contest for August will be Freight Cars and Larry hopes everyone will bring something (we all have some sort of freight car) for the contest.

After the regular meeting, the T-Trakers gathered together to actually run trains on their modules. Bruce DeMaeyer made a special trip from Lexington to help. He was full of information and his enthusiasm about T-Trak was quite evident. Thanks, Bruce, for taking the time, bringing some modules, and sharing your knowledge by attending our meeting.

The Morehead History and Railroad Museum will present the first Morehead Model Train Show at the Conference Center 11 E. First Street, Morehead, KY. The train show will be open on Saturday, August 25, from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm and on Sunday, August 26, from noon till 6:00 pm. The show will feature layouts, demonstrations, exhibits, trains, and accessories. Admission to the show is \$5.00 for the entire weekend. There is also a train museum across the street from the Conference Center and admission to the museum will be free.

Directions to the Conference Center

On I-64 take the Morehead Exit 137. If you are coming from the west, coming down the ramp turn right onto Route 32. If you are coming from the east, turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto Route 32. Go for three miles into Morehead. Once you pass Main St. (at the BP gas station) turn left onto E. First Street. Follow E. First Street to the conference center. Several members of our T-Trak SIG plan on attending and including their modules in a display being organized by Bruce DeMaeyer from the Lexington group. Sam Delauter will have more information about the show and the T-Trak modules during our August meeting and during the T-Trak gathering after the regular meeting.

UPCOMING CLINICS

Bob Osburn, Clinic Manager

The July clinic will was presented jointly by Tom Harris and Mark Maynard. They demonstrated two different techniques on how to produce cloud formations for our backdrops. This was a very interesting and informative clinic including some hands-on participation. Thanks, Tom and Mark. We always enjoy what you have to show us.

Coal Division member Jesse Smith will present the clinic for August. His experience as a Railroad Engineer will be evident from his presentation "*An Engineer's Trip Across the Road, Russell to Clifton Forge*".

Jesse J. Smith is a retired locomotive engineer, having worked for C&O, Chessie System and CSX from 1979 through 2017. Marked up in "Road Service" beginning in 1986, he ran coal, manifest and any other trains out of Russell, KY east to Danville, Elk Run, Logan, Handley and Hinton, WV; and then all the way east to Clifton Forge for the last four years of his career.

His presentation for our group takes us aboard his engine for the 247-mile trip with a single-stack container train all the way from Russell to Clifton Forge, a job

which he worked from 2013 through 2017. And these are the pictures he couldn't show during his time of employment!

Jesse is a lifetime model railroader, photographer, a student of the old C&O, and has authored countless articles for the *C&O Historical Magazine* on subjects such as C&O passenger service, the Greenbrier Resort, and Chessie's Steam-Turbine locomotives. He lives in Ona, WV with wife Katy, a cat and two dogs

The MADD session for the August meeting is freight cars, but remember the MADD session is a time for us to discuss, display, ask questions, and solve modeling projects as a group.

The Company Store will be open for the August meeting. If you have something to sell, please bring it and add it to the collection. We had a table full of articles at the July meeting and I hope you took advantage of the great selection. Stickers will be available to mark your item with name and asking price—10% of each sale will go into the Division coffers.



Coal Division
Monthly Railfun Event
“Freight Cars”

Saturday August 11, 2018

- 1:00** Depot Open
 Social Time, bring in contest entries:
 Freight cars
- 2:00** Superintendent's Briefing
- 2:30** Contest Results
 Raffle
- 3:00** Clinic: *“An Engineer's Trip Across
 the Road, Russell to Clifton Forge”* by
 Jesse Smith

NMRA MCR DIVISION 9 *THE COAL DIVISION*

St Albans Depot
St Albans, WV
July 14, 2018
Minutes

<p>Meeting called to order at 1:40 pm by Assistant Superintendent Bob Osburn.</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.</p> <p>Treasurer's Report – No report as clerk was absent.</p> <p>Superintendent Report – No report, as he was absent.</p> <p>Assistant Superintendent Report – He welcomed the members, and thanked them for their contributions to our annual cookout which was just completed.</p> <p>Newsletter Chair – Bob Weinheimer thanked the contributors and said new contributions are always welcome.</p> <p>Achievement Program Chair – Still waiting for Dale Osburn's Golden Spike Award.</p> <p>Library Chair – The library will be available after the meeting.</p>	<p>Membership Chair – No report</p> <p>Contest Chair – No report</p> <p>Raffle Chair – No report</p> <p>Old Business – None</p> <p>New Business – None</p> <p>Announcements – There will be a train show in Morehead, KY on August 25th. Location is in the convention center, with a train museum across the street.</p> <p>Next Meeting – St. Albans Depot – August 11, 2018</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm</p> <p>Clinic – Adding clouds to your background by Mark Maynard and Tom Harris.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted by Bill Wadsworth, Acting Clerk</p>
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The following MCR Officer positions are open for election in 2019:

**President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer**

The current Vice President is term limited and is ineligible to be a candidate for that position in the 2019 election. The current President, Secretary, and Treasurer are eligible to be candidates for their current positions in the 2019 election. Any MCR member in good standing who wishes to be considered for candidacy for one of these positions should send a notice of their interest to nominations@midcentral-region-nmra.org

Thank You.

**MCR 2019 election Nominating Committee
Bob Shreve
Bob Belt
Jim DiPaola**

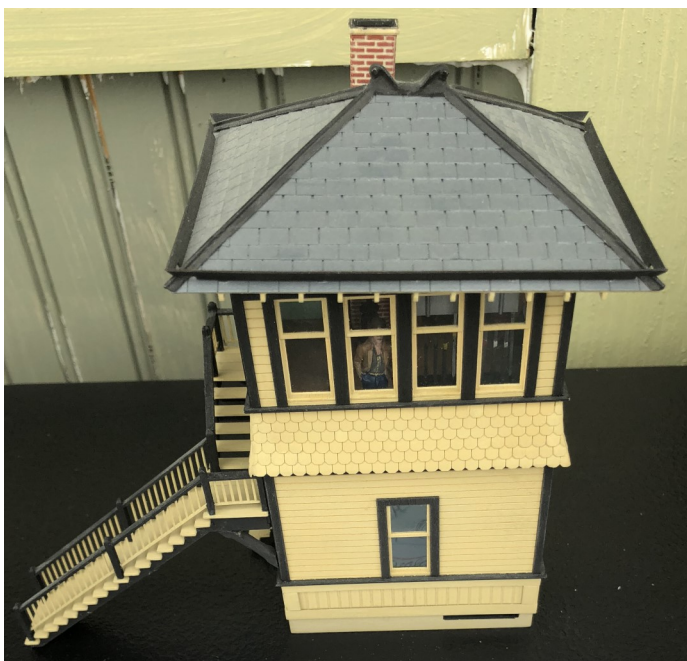
CONTEST

Photos by Bob Weinheimer

July's contest was structures and there was a good turnout. First place was a tie between Dale Osburn and Woody Mitchell. Second place went to Sam Delauter. Although not a winner, one of the most interesting entries was by Max Huffman. Max designed, did all the computer

coding, then 3D printed a Z scale bridge with a train crossing it. Who says young folks don't build stuff? They have just discovered a different set of tools.

The August contest is Freight cars.



Above: Woody Mitchell's S scale B&O tower



Above to the right,: Dale Osburn's "Honest Joe's Loans"

To the right,: Sam Delauter's "Hinkle Mill"



MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As the other columnists have noted, Picnic on the Platform was a great success from the food to the clinics to the contest and to a Coal Division T-Trak milestone. We were pleased to host Bruce DeMaeyer, the MCR T-Trak leader.

The next day Bruce and I attended the Division 2 meeting in Morgantown, WV. T-Trak got a warm reception there as the continued operation of their Freemo layout is in question. The following Saturday Bruce and I were in Louisville for the Division 8 meeting. There are already some Division 8 members participating in T-Trak but we did see lots of interest and lots of question were asked about the T-Trak concept.

The turnout and track replacement on my railroad has taken its next step forward with track removal at the

south end of Bridgeville. The new turnouts have been built, Micro-Mark Switch Tenders have been purchased, and it has been determined that Tam Valley Depot has the decoders I need to operate them. The decoders arrived the other day so there is no excuse to keep on working on this project. Demolition (ballast and track removal) is almost complete, that last bit of ballast has to go but is hard to remove. After I return from Kansas City, track laying should begin and the railroad should be ready for its September 13 operating session.

In the last few days we have heard that the Chinese factory Atlas uses to manufacture its locomotives and cars has suddenly closed. They note that this does not affect track. I sure hope this is not an omen of things to come.

PICNIC ON THE PLATFORM

Photos by Bob Weinheimer



At left, we see Dale Osburn grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs. No, the top of his head had not vaporized in the heat, the photographer did the cropping before taking the photo and not after.

At lower left is Tom Harris painting clouds and lower middle is Mark Maynard doing the same. They had different techniques for creating the ragged edge at the tops of the clouds, there were a number of cumulus clouds above we could use for reference.

At lower right is the T-Trak layout that the group assembled after the main meeting. It went together quickly and several locomotives had the chance to run around it.



COAL DIVISION T-TRAK SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Sam Delauter

Although our July meeting was a long day outdoors for many of us, it was very enjoyable. Many of us arrived early at about 11 am to help get everything set up for the meeting. We had a great turnout, not only in membership, but also in the contest and in the T-Trak group. Although it was a long and hot day, I enjoyed the meeting a lot. Many thanks goes to those who made it possible and to our cooks, Dale and Bob Osborn.

As usual, the T-Trak group met after the meeting. After months of work, we finally are starting to see the fruits of our labor. We put the modules together for the first time and ran trains on them. At the Coal Division meeting, we had a guest, Bruce DeMayer, from Lexington, Kentucky. Bruce has been a great source of knowledge and help as we have been working to establish our T-Trak group. Bruce's presence in T-Trak has been making waves in the NMRA on the national level. I think in a matter of a couple years that T-Trak will be a major presence across all regions of the NMRA.

During the T-Trak meeting, Bruce spoke extensively on T-Trak. Bruce is much more knowledgeable of T-Trak

than I am. I personally learned a lot from him and I thank him for coming to the meeting and speaking and giving us guidance. By the time that this article has been published, I will have emailed everyone about the upcoming Morehead Train Show. I am hoping that the Coal Division will have a good presence with modules at the show.



Photo by Bob Weinheimer

MONTHLY MODEL CONTEST

2018 SCHEDULE

January	Modeler's Choice	August	Freight Cars
February	Steam Locomotives	September	Photo, Model or Prototype
March	Locomotives Other Than Steam	October	Open Loads (flats, gondolas, hoppers)
April	Cabooses	November	Passenger Cars
May	Anything Steel Related	December	Second Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Challenge. Details and kick off in October
June	Non Revenue Except Cabooses		
July	Structures		

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The goal of the newsletter team is to have this document reach you by email or snail mail at least one week prior to our meetings. We typically start the layout work the Monday 12 days before the meeting. This allows a day of review by the officers and a proofreader before the electronic version is issued, usually on Wednesday. The paper version is mailed Thursday or Friday. For this to happen reliably, we need all items for publication by that Monday 12 days prior to the meeting. If we don't get it

on time we can't print it. Please help us give you the most up to date information possible. Here are the deadlines for the next few issues

September	August 27
October	September 28
November	October 29
December	November 26
January	December 31



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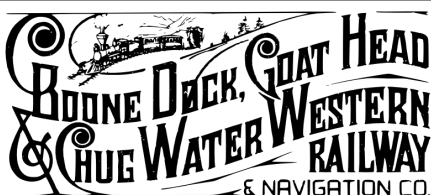


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Upcoming Coal Division Events

August 11
St. Albans Depot

September 8
West Portsmouth, OH

October 13
St. Albans Depot

November 10
St. Albans Depot

December 8
St. Albans Depot