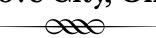
SUPER'S SIGNAL A publication of Division 6, Mid-Central Region of The National ModelRailroad Association, Inc.



Sunday, 27 February 2011

St. John's Lutheran Church Grove City, Ohio



Schedule

12:30: St. John's Lutheran Church opens
12:45 – 1:45: Division 6 Business Meeting
2:00 – 4:00: Clinics:

Painting Backgrounds – Dick Briggs, MMR Mounting Tortoise Switch Machines – Howard Smith, MMR Research Resources for Scratch Building Structures – John Retterer

Contest

Model: Back Woods Engine House – Appropriate tracks, interior and exterior details. Photograph: Old Engine House or Roundhouse.



1

Superintendent's Report

31 March 2011

Division 6

Election Ballet Deadline

Vote Now

By Division 6 Superintendent Robert E. Lee

Who is "Mother Nature," and is she related to "Old Man Winter," well look outside and you will see them both. However it could be a lot worse, take for instance the Chicago area or the East Coast. Snow, Snow and more Snow, time for more and more model railroading. What say you on the subject?

For those of you who could not attend The Dean Freytag Memorial on January 29, 2011 in Ashland, Ohio, well, you missed a great event. The stories were super and the food was

great. His legacy will be long remembered and cherished. Jim Hediger, a Senior Editor on the staff of Model Railroad Magazine, told some good stories of his relationship with Dean over the years.

I mention in my last report about the face of NMRA changing and so we have to change also. Well one of the ways they are changing is a face-lift. The new NMRA logo emblem is to modernize the look for the next generation of model railroaders. Gone are the old steam loco's and in their place are SD70ACE's, so are the old Athearn Blue Box models for the new ExactRail models. The Wheel and Coupler is replaced with the New Wheel, for moving forward. The old saying, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away," so will the Wheel and Coupler fade away but never die. At least not while the Old Hats are still around.

The January issue of *The Super's Signal* was late being mailed. Let me first apologize for the inconvenience; however, the problem has been addressed. Our printer had a backlog of work and did not realize the importance and time sensitivity of this issue. I cannot promise it will not happen again; however,

> we have elevated the problem. Your patience is appreciated.

Included in the January issue of *The Super's Signal* is a ballot for the election of Directors for Division 6. Every voting member of Division 6 should have

received one in the mail. Please do vote, even though there are but three slots to fill, and return the ballot by 31 March 2011. If you did not receive the ballot, please let us know.

I regretfully announce the death of another member of Division 6. Charles Lee Elkins Jr., age 75 passed away on January 25, 2011. His obituary appears later in *The Super's Signal*.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family.

Super's Report Continued on page 3.

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

Division 6 Superintendent Robert E. Lee: Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Assistant Superintendent Craig Sonnen: AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Clerk Bob Bowditch: Clerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Pay Master John Gafney: Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org Directors

Howard Smith, MMR, Paul E. Smith, Donald Wilke: <u>Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org</u>

APPOINTED CHAIRS Achieve. Program: Howard Smith, MMR Contest: John Retterer Members Aid: Howard Smith, MMR Membership: Dave Schein Program: Craig Sonnen Web Master: Don Wilke Super's Signal Editor William Connell & Marla Wright: SuperSignalEditor@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Super's Signal Publisher Donald Wilke: SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org

DIVISION 6 WEB SITE:

www.div6-mcr-nmra.org

Mid-Central Region President Dick Briggs, MMR:

president@midcentral-region-nmra.org

NMRA Central District Director Robert Beaty, MMR

Continued: Super's Report

Just a reminder, the Mid-Central Regional Convention is right around the corner, 28 April through 1 May 2011. It

will be here before you know it. Make your plans and reservations today. Be sure to bring your contest entries.

February 201

SIGNAL

SUPER'S

We have a possible "Road Trip" coming up in May to Parkersburg, WV., as Dave Stout of

Division 9 has invited members of Division 6 to attend their Division Meet-

ing on May 14, 2011. They will feed us and throw in a couple of layout tours to boot. We will have further updates as the time nears, so mark your calendars. Three more "Road Trips" are scheduled this year, one to Beyesville, Ohio, in August; Portsmouth, Ohio, in September; and Coshocton, Ohio, in October, makes this an interesting and fun year.

Next Division 6 Steering Committee Meeting 2 March 2011 at John Retterer's We welcome two new members to our Division, they are: Robert L. Hilburn and Joseph Re Jr. Our Membership is 192 as of February 2011, with 13 renewals to include the two new members.

The February Division Meeting is at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City, Ohio. Hopefully the weather will be better, not as cold, so more members can attend. See you there and don't forget your contest entries.

Thanks - Bob Lee

Division 6 Super's Report (Continued)

Ļ

This last year of contests was less than expected. I am however, optimistic this year will bring out more of the talent I know is there in our Division.

The Modeler of the Year for 2010 was Jim Ruisinger.

The Photographer of the Year for 2010 was Don Wilke.

Both were presented with plaques and well deserved congratulations.

I hope the contests offered present a challenge and sharpen your modeling skills.



John Retterer, Contest Chairman This is a most talented group and I hope you rise to the occasion. A high point to aim for should be the convention at Lake Erie. With the talent we have in this division, we should be able to clean house in the contest room.

Our next opportunity for contest entries is at Grove City on the 27th of February. Come out, enter and enjoy. Contest Report by John Retterer

Fallen Flags

Below, is this *Super's Signal* issue listing those who's Flags have Fallen. Please remember them and the families they have left behind.

Charles Lee Elkins Jr., 25 January

"ELKINS Charles Lee Elkins Jr., age 75, went to be with the Lord January 25, 2011, at Riverside. Member of Linworth Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Jacque; sons, Greg (Audrey) and Tim (Michele); and daughter, Wendy (Frank) Brown; nine grandchildren; and two great grandchildren; sisters, Nancy (David) Bowman and Pat (Craig) Scheneman; sister in law, Barbara Happie; several nieces and nephews. ... In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Linworth Baptist Mission fund. Arrangements completed by SHAW-DAVIS FUNERAL "

Published in The Columbus Dispatch from January 27 to January 28, 2011. Fallen Flags by Bill Connell Division 6 Clerk's Report by Bob Bowditch

Clerk's Report

Division 6, Mid Central Region, NMRA Inc. Business Meeting

January 23, 2011

Hosted by the Columbus Model Railroad Club.

Officers in Attendance:

Superintendent	Robert E. Lee
Clerk	Bob Bowditch
Pay Master	John Gafney
Director	Howard Smith, MMR
Director	Paul Smith
Director	Don Wilke

Chairpersons Present:

Super's Signal Editor	William Connell and Marla Wright
Super's Signal Publisher	Don Wilke
Web Master	Don Wilke
Contest Chairman	John Retterer
Achievement Program	Howard Smith, MMR
Members Aid	Howard Smith, MMR

MCR Representatives:

Mid-Central Region President Dick Briggs, MMR

Business Meeting:

Bob Lee called the meeting to order at 12:41 pm.

Bob Bowditch read the minutes of the last meeting. Jim Ruisinger moved the minutes be approved; 2nd by Don Wilke; minutes were approved.

John Gafney presented the financial report. Details are on the website. Jim Ruisinger moved to accept the report; 2nd by Don Wilke. The report was approved.

John Retterer, Contest Chairman, announced the following results of September contest:

Models

• 1st and 2nd Jim Ruisinger

Photos

• 1st and 2nd Don Wilke

Photo winner for 2010 is Don Wilke and the model winner for 2010 is Jim Ruisinger.

February's Contests are Backwoods Engine House for models and the same for photos.

Howard Smith reported no new activity in the Achievement Program.

Don Wilke presented the Website Report. He is in the process of moving 2010 items to the archives and making room for the 2011.



Contest Program Chairman John Retterer, presents Don Wilke 2010 Photographer of the Year Award.



Contest Program Chairman John Retterer, presents Jim Ruisinger 2010 Modeler of the Year Award.

Clerk's Report Continued on page 7.

Continued: Clerk's Report

William Connell and Marla Wright presented the editor's report. There was a problem getting *The Super's Signal* out from the printer's in a timely manner. They are in the process of finding a new printer. They also announced a new col-

umn called *Beyond the Rails*. It will appear in the February issue.

Dick Briggs, MCR President, presented the Mid-Central Regions report. Dick an-

nounced *The Kingpin*, was mailed with an *incorrect zip code for the return of the Election*. *Ballot*. It should be **43103**. He also announced that if you haven't registered for the Regional Convention you should register promptly, as registrations are filling up.

There will be a Memorial Walk for Dean Freytag in Ashland, details are on the website.

Bob Lee presented the new members report. Current membership is 192. Jason Parker is a new member from Newark.

Old Business

Jim Ruisinger announced that nominations for Division 6 Director have been received. Nominees are Howard Smith, Paul Smith, Don Wilke and William Connell. Bios are requested for each.

Ballots for the Division 6 Directors are in the January *Super's Signal*. They are due to Jim Ruisinger by 31 March.

The new Circus Co-coordinator was announced, that being Greg Clark.

We had two deaths lately in the Division. Carl Albrecht, November 30th, and Dean Freytag, December 25th.

The whole membership will receive a mailed copy of *The Super's Signal* due to the ballot being enclosed.

New Business

Correct Zip Code for

the MCR Election Teller:

43103

A memorial walk will be held for Dean Freytag Saturday, January 29, in Ashland, Ohio.

A new column, *Fallen Flags*, was added to *The Super's Signal* to honor Division 6 members who have passed.

Two new features are added to *The Super's Signal*, *Beyond the Rails* and *NMRA Info Net.*.

Dave Stout from Division 9 invited members of Division 6 to attend a meeting in

Parkersburg, West Virginia on May 14, 2011; more details to follow.

A reminder was announced regarding the upcoming *Rail of Ages Regional Convention*. April 28 through May 1, 2011 in Geneva-onthe-Lake, Ohio.

The next Steering Committee meeting is held at Bob Lee's on February 2 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

February's deadline for *The Super's Signal* is February 4.

The next Division meeting is February 27, 2011, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City, Ohio.

Club Reports

Howard Smith thanked the membership for attending the Division 6 meeting at the Columbus Model Railroad Club.

Greg Short announced the Zanesville Club is hosting the May Division 6 meeting.

COOS club is moving to a vacant space in the Kingsdale Center, Jim Ruisinger reports. He also reports the Mini Bunch convention will be held November 12-13 at the New Life Church in Gahanna.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:28 pm. Motion by John Retterer.



Member-

ship Column

by

Bill

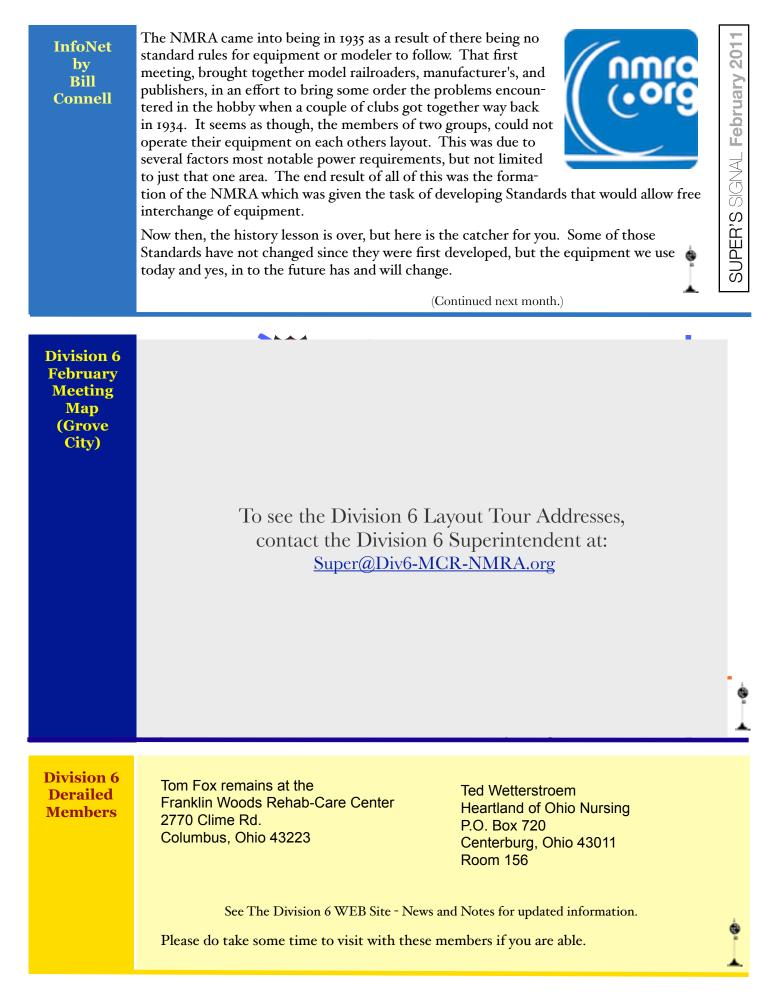
Connell

Well some good news for a change as we welcome two new members to Division 6. The new members are: Robert Hilburn of Mount Vernon, and Joseph Re Jr. of Bexley.

Our membership numbers have increased by one due to the loss of Mr. Charles Elkins, but it is in the right direction none-the-less as we work toward our goal of 230 Division 6 members.

Lets see if we can find a couple of fine folks this month to join and enjoy our hobby.

Division 6 Clerk's Report (Continued)



<page-header> First Place Contest Winners Image: State of the state of</page-header>	First Place Model (Chapel Car): No Entries First Place Photograph (Old County Church): Donald Wilke
Income Statement • To see the Division 6 Finical Report, contact the Division 6 Superintendent at: Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org * *subject to audit	By Division 6 Paymaster John Gafney
Prepared by John Gafney Paymaster 1/31/2011	

Dean Freytag Memorial by Don Wilke

"Dean of Styrene"

Dean Freytag Memorial 29 January 2011

A Memorial for Dean Freytag, MMR, was held at Ashland University Convocation Center on 29 January 2011. Approximately 55 people attended. Some traveled from Charlestown, West Virginia; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Arizona. Roger Camplin of Arizona, Ken Heyl of Ashland, and others from the Ashland area organized Dean's Memorial. Roger Camplin gave an introductory speech; a catered buffet lunch was served; and people reminisced about "Good Old Dean."

Roger Camplin started by saying he couldn't attend Dean's funeral; so, he organized the Memorial because he needed closure. He said Dean kept a ledger book for the last few years, where Dean recorded what pieces of his layout people would

like to have. Roger also announced that Dean sold his layout to four Ashland area model railroaders two years ago and his house was deeded to Ashland University. The new owners of the railroad must remove it by the middle of June. NO ONE ELSE may enter the house. So if you haven't visited the layout recently – you can't now.



Dean Freytag (1924 –2010)



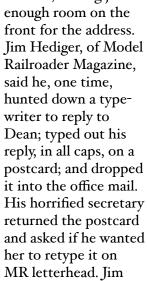
Roger Camplin.

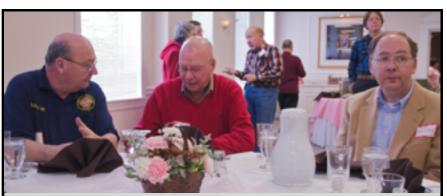
The people listed in Dean's ledger will be contacted and arrangements made to transfer the pieces listed in the ledger to their new owners. Some large unclaimed structures will be placed in Plexiglas display units and made available, on loan, to groups. Leftover struc-

tures, cars, motive power, and other details will be offered for sale at reasonable prices to help pay for the display units. Information will be supplied to both The Mid-Central Region and Division 6 when details are available. Check their WEB Sites for updates.

People were encouraged to share "Dean stories" with their "tablemates" during lunch. After lunch, the best stories from each

table were shared with everyone. One story involved Dean's famous postcards. They were always typed in all capitals on an old typewriter whose ribbon stuck so the letters were half black and half red. Dean used all the available space on the postcard, often breaking a line in mid-word and using both the front and back of the post card, leaving just





The Mid-Central Region was represented by MCR President Dick Briggs, MMR; MCR Central Director Candidate Linn Young; and MCR Secretary Bob Weinheimer, MMR.

20 February SUPER'S SIGNAL



"Good Old Dean."

Well folks, your response was deafening to say the least. Wow! You almost sank the server. Only kidding. The truth is, the subject presented last month is important to you as it is just one of the ways the our society and for that matter the NMRA, Region, Division is or could soon be changing.

Think back a few years ago, perhaps 20 or 25, to the way we communicated way back then. Email was just coming into use, Cell Phones were in their infancy and we generally wrote letters that required stamps and were mailed via the U.S. Mail.

Today, it seems as though e-mail from a computer is now pretty much a thing of the past and now it is texting via something called Twitter or socializing on another application known as Facebook often using a handheld device.

The world changes and so must we, like it or not. How the change takes place is somewhat under our control, but only if we speak up. Other wise those changes are under the control of someone else and the result is less than what you like. It has happened before. It will happen again too.

So what is all this nonsense about? You Tube, that's what, video clips. It is just another means of communication, some of which is rather entertaining and may be helpful. Is it a change for the good? Could be, but then again, without the proper safe guards it could invite strangers to your railroad, people who really have no interest in the railroad other that to place some of your prized models on eBay, some Flea market or Garage sale.

Now that I have your attention, give a bit more thought to the subject as this could affect you or someone you know.

So, what do you think are needed to safe guard you and/or your property from some unwanted, uninvited stranger? Perhaps nothing more than a form giving permission to the Division to upload images of your layout is needed. Then again, perhaps some means is needed to hide your identity is required. Those are but two thoughts.

I am sure you may have a few of your own ideas, so please do share them with us at the next division meeting or via e-mail at SuperSignalEditor@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Topic For Thought by Marla Wright & Bill Connell

Division 6 Dates Changed by Don Wilke

Division 6 Steering Committee Meeting Dates Changed

The Division 6 Steering Committee has changed some of their meeting dates. The new dates are approximately 24 days before a Division 6 Meeting. The Division 6 Steering Committee Meetings are open to all Division 6 members. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and rotate among Committee members homes. Input from Division members is welcome, but only officials of Division 6 may vote on proposals.

The Super's Signal deadline remains two days after the Steering Committee Meeting, allowing us a little over one week to produce, print and mail *The Super's Signal*. Division 6 member should receive *The Super's Signal* 10 to 14 days before the Division 6 Meeting.

2011 Timetable				
Date	Meeting	Location	City	
2 March*	Steering Comm.	John Retterer	Prospect	
4 March*	The Super's Signal deadline			
18 May	Steering Comm.	Bob Bowditch	Powell	
20 May	The Super's Signal deadline			
13 July	Steering Comm.	Craig Sonnen	Grove City	
15 July	The Super's Signal deadline			
17 August*	Steering Comm.	Howard Smith	Grove City	
19 August*	The Super's Signal deadline			
28 September*	Steering Comm.	Bob Lee	Reynoldsburg	
30 September*	The Super's Signal deadline			
26 October*	Steering Comm.	Bill Connell	Columbus	
28 October*	The Super's Signal deadline			
* Date changed				

2010 Trip to Walnut Creek MRR Club by Marla Wright

2010 Trip to Walnut Creek MRR Club

This summer Bill and I visited the Walnut Creek Model Railroad club. The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Club is part of the Coast Division of the Pacific Coast region; Bill's friend, Ken, has been a member for many years dating, back to the early 1960's. The weekend we were there, the layout was open to the community. For \$2.00, the General Public visits the popular display. I wondered at the time why they charged a fee; I soon learned the answer. (Members of the NMRA are not charged a fee. Yet another good reason to keep your membership current.)

The display, or layout if you wish, can only be described as massive, impressive with scenery that goes way beyond the rail. The rail itself is impressive, since every inch of track is hand laid. From the smallest child to the seasoned railroad modeler, there is something to be seen and enjoyed. There are large bridges visible on three levels. Even the tunnels are detailed and the viewing public can see the inside of the tunnels.

Small communities seem alive; they are complete with their own working trolleys, lights, and sounds. The manufacturing locations have trains switching products, which are loaded onto the trains and moved to the mainline for delivery. Oil well pumps operate as one might expect. They move up and down, as a train of tank cars pulls its load to the refinery. The refinery, just down the track, is modeled too.

There is a hobo camp complete with a list of the characters lounging

Walnut Creek Continued on page 11.

Continued: Walnut Creek

about or setting up camp. The characters are not animated; but it is easy to imagine them in motion.

Outside of the main display room you find additional modeling areas such as Jurassic Park. There's a giant blue fish is loaded on a flat car. I wonder where that fish will go? Beasts, whose names I cannot pronounce, wreak havoc on railroad cars, track, and bridge work. We could see the aftermath; but not the action. (Not animated. Not many want their trains destroyed! A bit of whimsy went into this part of the display.) Fire trucks are shown heading there with emergency equipment and police cars.

Speaking of fire trucks, yes they do have what was, at least, a working grass fire. The fire is simulated, to be sure. But the viewer gets the message and the eye is pulled to the scene beyond the rails again.

Every half hour or so, the display goes through a cycle of night and day. Sunrise, High Noon, Sunset and finally darkness. All the while the trains keep on running, just as with the prototype. Lights in buildings turn on, and later off, as the hour advances.

Every hour, there was even a thunderstorm with a light shower of rain! How they achieved rain without getting the display too wet I do not know. But I felt the drops. (Maybe only over the path viewers were on? But I thought I saw drops on the display!) The thunder and lightning, however, were real enough to frighten a small child. Lights flashed, sound boomed! It was great.

The track weaves in and around mountains. They have a mountain in one corner of the room that proudly stands in excess of 20 feet tall. In the middle of the display, another peak rises above all others in the mountain range. Around it, a small plane flies. Around other peaks, other planes fly. Model wind turbans turn, simulating an electrical generating turban farm. A small rural church nestles in the mountains between communities.

In addition to the standard gauge and trolley operation, there is an extensive narrow gauge operation in the Main Layout Room. A narrow gauge train threads its way up the steep cliffs to the top of the mountain. It, in its self, is quite a sight. In an adjoining room, a dock scene operates under catenary; it too is very well detailed.

The display has several control areas. From a loft, a team of 10 engineers operate the main line trains, as they wind through the 110 control blocks. The main line engineers are supported by a host of operators in the various yards and staging areas. A center alley, under one of the mountains, allows the main floor operators access to the interior of the layout and staging area.

The dispatcher has his own room off in a corner of the main layout room. This room has Plexiglas windows from which he is viewed controlling the operation. His view of the layout comes from the many TV monitors mounted above the dispatch board where he can see all that he needs to see. It was interesting to watch him dispatch using a keyboard to throw the various track switches and set the signals.

No, the layout is not computer controlled. In fact, it is controlled the old fashion way, using telephone company engineering, relays, and Crossbar switches.

All trains operate on DC. No DCC here, as a matter of fact it was discussed at one time, but to rewire the layout was out of the question.

Mounted on one wall is a large, working schematic of the entire track plan with the appropriate lights to show location of the trains as they progress. With this, the casual visitor can watch the progress of the trains on the layout. The board is about 10x20 feet in size; so, it is easy to see from almost every part of the viewing area.

If you should go to the National NMRA convention, be sure to make it a point to drop by Walnut Creek and see the layout for your self. You will be impressed. It is the total sensory experience for any visitor.

2010 Trip to Walnut Creek MRR Club (continued)

SUPER'S SIGNAL

William B. Connell 1863 Hickory Hill Drive Paint Creek, OH 43228-9715

Rails Of Ages

Just a reminder: If you have not registered for the *Rails Of Ages* NMRA MCR convention, you really need to move it up on your list of things to do before the snow melts and the grass starts growing.

The convention, April 28th through May 1st will soon be here. Remember, it is being held this year at: The Lodge & Conference Center at Geneva-on-the-Lake, a real nice place. Lodging reservations are limited.

You would do well to check the convention web site: <u>http://www.railsofages.org/Convention/index.html</u> for more information.

Thanks for supporting Division 6

The Smoke Stack Hobby Shop 368 Lincoln Ave. Lancaster, OH 43130-3716 740.653.0404

> Hobbyland East: 6919 E. Broad St. Columbus, Oh 43213 614.866.5011

Robbies Hobbies 4578 N. High St. Columbus, OH 43214 614.265.7288 Bob the Train Guy www.bobthetrainguy.com 740.972.0171

> Hobbyland Graceland: 206 Graceland Blvd Columbus, Oh 43214 614.888.7500

The Train Station 4430 Indianola Ave. Columbus, Oh 43214 614.262.9056

Division 6 Timetable

27 February

Division 6 Meeting St. Johns Lutheran Church, Grove City Clinics: see front page **Model:** Back Woods Engine House **Photo:** Old Engine House or Roundhouse

2 March Division 6 Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 John Retterer

4 March Super's Signal Deadline

27 March Division 6 Meeting Zanesville Club

31 March Division 6 Election Ballots due

28 April- 1 May MCR Convention *Rails Of Ages* Gevena-on-the-Lake, Ohio