

# SUPER'S SIGNAL

A publication of Division 6, Mid-Central Region of The National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

September 2012



## 8 September 2012 Mark Maynard's NW Portsmouth, Ohio



**11:00:** Mark Maynard NW layout opens

**12:00:** Lunch

**2:00:** Joint Division 9 / Division 6 Business Meeting



### **Contest**

**Model:** Detailed passenger car.

**Photograph:** Passenger car.

## Superintendent's Report

Robert E. Lee, Division 6 Superintendent

Summer is three quarters over and it is time to prepare the kids for another year of education at school. I hope everyone enjoyed the hot weather and did the things you wanted to do. If not, there is next year to plan for the big event.

The bus trip to Cincinnati was very exciting to say the least. Thirty-three people had a great time visiting *Entertrainment Junction*, and the *Cincinnati Union Terminal*. The G-Scale layout at *Entertrainment Junction* has to be the best G-Scale exhibit I have ever experienced. The layout is divided into three time periods, the first is early rail-roading; the second is post war and the third is modern. The scenery is well done and depicts each era very nicely. They have two to four trains running continuously for each period with interactive explanation available for the different scenes. Over all, there are approximately 72 trains running on the layout. The lunch buffet had plenty of good food to eat. The general public is not allowed under the layout. However, arrangements were made and we were led on a unique under the layout tour which revealed all the electronics controlling the layout.

The *Cincinnati Union Terminal*, an icon itself, was very satisfying. Tower "A" gives you the feeling of the once mighty yard it controlled and the amount of traffic passing through it. In addition, the two museums of History and Science in the Union Terminal are well worth the visit. They are not as large as the museums in Chicago, but they give the history of the Cincinnati area from inception to the current day, very impressive.

I would like to thank two of our members for the feedback on the Cincinnati trip. They stated: they were sin-

cerely pleased with the trip, it was organized and well executed.

The NMRA has decided to upgrade its Education and Training Program at the National level. The NMRA Board Of Directors (BOD) has chosen a proposal submitted by the Michigan Division of the NMRA to fulfill the need. The BOD named James Six to the position of NMRA Education and Training Program Chair. The program is to be implemented throughout all levels of the NMRA.

The NMRA-InfoNet stated that Charlie Getz is now the new NMRA President. Charlie appointed Western Director Jack Hamilton as head of the new Strategic Planning Committee, which will prepare a plan to help guide the NMRA into the future. The Sacramento 21st Century Limited National Convention host group presented the BOD with a check for \$7,500, to be donated to the Diamond Club.

Division 6 has lost another member to death. David Cheney passed away on July 13, 2012. We do not at this time have any information on his arrangements or burial.

Portsmouth, Ohio is the destination for our next Division 6 meeting on September 8. We are joining Division 9 for their annual meeting. Mark Maynard will be our host at his home and a run on his ever-growing layout. The doors open at 11:00 AM; lunch at noon; and the business meeting at 2:00 PM. The contest is Model: "Detailed Passenger Car"; Photo: "Passenger Car." So hop aboard and join the fun.

**Super's Report**

Continued on page 3.

**Next Division 6 Steering  
Committee Meeting  
26 September 2012, 7:30 PM  
at John Retterer's**

### DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

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### APPOINTED CHAIRS

**Achieve. Program:** Howard Smith, MMR

**Contest:** John Retterer

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**Membership:** Dave Mathney

**Program:** Bill Connell

**Web Master:** Don Wilke

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### NMRA Central District Director

Robert Beaty, MMR

Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke

## Continued: **Super's Report**

Our next Steering Committee meeting will be on September 26 at the home of John Retterer. The following Division 6 meeting will be on October 21

at the new home of the Central Ohio MRRC. The Contest will be Model: Your rolling stock, Photo: Your rolling stock.

Thanks, The Super - Bob Lee



## Division 6 Paymaster Report

*John Gafney, Division 6 Paymaster*

NMRA MCR Div 6			
Financial Statement 7/25/2012 thru 8/21/2012			
<p><b>To see the Division 6 Paymaster's Report, contact the Division 6 Superintendent at:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org">Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org</a></p>			
Prepared by John Gafney			
Paymaster 8/21/2012			



## Division 6 Derailed Members

Tom Fox, Sr., is now at the  
Volunteers of America Eastland Care Center  
(near Eastland Mall)  
2425 Kimberly Parkway, East  
Columbus, Ohio, 43227  
Room: 203.  
Phone number 614-868-9306, Ext. 203.

See The Division 6 WEB Site - News and Notes for updated information.

Please do take some time to visit with these members if you are able.



## Cincinnati Bus Trip

Donald Wilke

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Thirty-three people waited behind Pizza Hut for the bus to Cincinnati. Our fearless tour director, Howard Smith, gave us general instructions, including don't be late returning to the bus - it wouldn't wait for you.

We arrived at *Entertrainment Junction's* 80,000 square foot building after a two-hour trip. We were lead into a room that would become our dinning room, banded with a hospital-like bracelet, and a given a time for lunch and the special "behind the scenes tour." We were then free to wander the 22,000 square foot G-scale layout. The layout consists of 43 independent loops of track with 72 trains in almost constant motion. The majority of the trains run in a "chase" mode, one train following another, and on other loops the trains run in opposite directions with most passing sidings behind the scenes and a few siding in front, near the aisle. This is all done with no dispatcher and no operator, each loop is independently computer controlled using a simple block system.

The central aisle of the 22,000 square foot layout wanders through three different time periods. The first time period represents the *Early Period* of railroading with *American* locomotives, truss bridges, an eleven foot waterfall, and a number of small vignettes showing everything from a Civil War camp to a lake with real water and a steamboat. The second time period is the *Middle Period* or the transition period; big trains, big steam, early diesels, traction and trollies, and streamlined passenger trains. The *Modern Period* had a modern city, a subway with cutaways to see underground stations, diesels galore, and long trains, one coal train had over sixty coal cars - in G-scale!

Lunch was an all-you-can-eat pizza, shredded beef sandwiches, chips, soda, and chocolate chip cookies buffet mixed with great conversation.

The under-the-layout tour reveled there was over two miles of G-scale track, and some of the track was already marked for replacement even though it was only four-years old. Steel-stud framing, chicken wire, and spray foam held up the detailed scenery. They use over 100 locomotives and 1,200 cars to made up trains, and buy from most of the G-scale manufactures. Most days the entire layout runs with just two people who wander the layout looking for problems. In the morning, they turn on the lights, flip a couple of switches and the trains start up by themselves. At night, they flip a few switches, the trains all go to a home location under the layout, and 15 minutes later they turn off the power, lights and lock the door.

A few paid individuals keep the place running, including the hobby shop, lunch counter, gift shop, and kids attractions. Over 300 volunteers do everything from painting people to repairing and detailing cars and structures. They have a small machine shop that is kept busy repairing locomotive running gear because most of the locomotives were never made to run this many scale miles.

### Bus Trip

Continued on page 5.



On the bus to Cincinnati.



Early Period – Mogul on trestle above eye level.



Early Period – Automatic train meet.



Middle Period – Streamline passenger train.





Both young & old enjoyed Entertainment Junction.



One of many detailed models.



Middle Period (see the man in red?)



Historical Photo of Cincinnati Union Terminal.

Wikipedia

After a short trip down I-75 we arrived at *Cincinnati Union Terminal*, CUT. Opened in 1933, CUT was constructed in the Art Deco style, and has the largest semi-dome in the western world. The construction project took 5 years to complete, starting with the regrading of Mill Creek, building viaducts over Mill Creek and the projected trackage, and moving 5.5 million cubic yards of landfill. It centralized the freight and passenger operations of the Big Four, Pennsylvania, Chesapeake & Ohio, Norfolk & Western, Southern, Louisville & Nashville, and the Baltimore & Ohio railroads.

During World War II, CUT experienced unprecedented usage. As a major transfer point for soldiers, the station served as many as 34,000 passengers per day. By the early 1970s, only two trains a day passed through CUT and in 1972, passenger train service was halted completely. Southern Railway bought some of the land to use for its own expanded freight operations in its Gest Street Yard and its expanding intermodal terminal because it was hemmed in to the west by C&O's Queensgate Yard Receiving Yard. Southern removed most of the 450-foot long passenger train concourse to allow additional height for its piggyback operations. On July 29, 1991, passenger train service was officially restored to CUT with the arrival of Amtrak's *Cardinal*.

Tower A controlled the passenger trains in and out of CUT. Built near the back of the semi-dome, over the passenger concourse, it required four to six lever-men and two to four dispatchers to operate complex. Originally designed for 108 inbound and 108 outbound passenger trains, CUT never lived up to its potential. Currently operated by *The Cincinnati Railroad Club*, Tower A offers a sweeping view of Norfolk Souther's Gest Street Yard, the railroad bridge over the Ohio River to the South, and the Western Hills Viaduct to the North.

CUT has three additional museums and I was told they were well worth the time and cost on admission. After a two hour visit to CUT, we boarded the bus back to Columbus and, of course, arrived on time.

**Bus Trip Pictures**  
Continued on page 7.



The big kids enjoyed the bus trip, and so did the girls.

## Division 6 – 2012 Time Table

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Date	Event	Location	Contest
4 Jan	Steering Comm Meeting	Bill Connell's, 7:30, Columbus	
25 Jan	Steering Comm Meeting	Bob Lee's, 7:30, Reynoldsburg	
29 Jan	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus HO Model RR Club, Columbus Ohio Layout: Columbus HO Model RR Club	Model: Snow Plow Photo: Snow Plow or Railroad snow scene
19 Feb	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City Clinics: <i>Converting From DC to DCC, Weathering, Basic Bridges</i>	Model: Favorite Locomotive Photo: Favorite Locomotive
22 Feb	Steering Comm Meeting	Bob Bowditch's, 7:30, Powell	
22 Feb	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
25 Mar (change)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church, Reynoldsburg, Ohio Layouts: Bob Lee, Ned Harlow	Model: Basic Bridge Photo: Basic Bridge
26-29 Apr	<i>MCR Convention</i>	<i>HIGH-LINE to Pittsburgh</i>	Modeler's Choice
23 May	Steering Comm Meeting	John Gafney's, 7:30, Dublin	
23 May	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
16 Jun (Sat)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Marion Union Station, Marion, Ohio Clinics: <i>Motive Power Comparison—C&amp;O vs. N&amp;W in the Diesel Era; The Appalachians in 8-Inches of Space; Weathering With Women's Makeup; Philosophy, Science Fiction, and Model Railroad</i>	Model: Weathered rail car Photo: Weathered or Graffitied rolling stock
25 Jul	Steering Comm Meeting	Bob Bowditch's, 7:30, Powell	
25 Jul	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
18 Aug (Sat)	Division 6 Meeting	Bus Trip: <i>EnterTrainment Junction, &amp; Cincinnati Union Terminal</i>	None
22 Aug	Steering Comm Meeting	Howard Smith's, 7:00, Grove City	
22 Aug	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
<b>8 Sep (Sat) (change)</b>	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Joint Meeting with Division 9, Portsmouth, Ohio Layout: Mark Maynard's N&W	Model: Detailed Passenger Car Photo: Passenger Car
<b>26 Sep</b>	Steering Comm Meeting	John Retterer's, 7:30, Prospect	
<b>26 Sep</b>	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
21 Oct (change)	<b>Division 6 Meeting</b>	Business Meeting: COMRC, Worthington Layout: Central Ohio Model Railroad Club	Model: Your rolling stock Photo: Your rolling stock
24 Oct	Steering Comm Meeting	Bill Connell's, 7:30, Columbus	
24 Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
18 Nov	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City Layouts: MMR Tour (Smith, MMR; Briggs, MMR; Sonnen, MMR)	Model: promote NMRA Month Photo: promote NMRA Month
19 Dec	Steering Comm Meeting	Bob Lee's, 7:30, Reynoldsburg	

Continued: **Bus Trip**



*View from Tower A, looking north toward Western Hills Viaduct, NS intermodal terminal to the left.*

**Quick Note:** These views show the same double-stack train that is so long we couldn't see power at either end.



*View from Tower A looking south toward the Ohio River bridge & Kentucky.*

## Portsmouth Meeting Map

To see the Division 6 Layout Tour Addresses,  
contact the Division 6 Superintendent at:

[Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)





## SUPER'S SIGNAL

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