

# SUPER'S SIGNAL

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

April 2013



## Superintendent's Report

Robert E. Lee, Division 6 Super

We missed a lot of you at our January Division 6 Meeting - maybe that is a good sign. That means those who weren't there are working on their layouts or a model for the next meeting. The Columbus Club was a gracious host as usual. They let us operate on the layout and run some locals. That was different!

At the meeting we introduced for the first time a *Bring & Brag* portion, we had some good models to brag about. So now you have the option to enter the contest or brag, and the model you bring to brag about does not have to be same as the contest entry. So I hope to see more at our next meeting.

It was brought to our attention that we should try to generate some revenue for the division coffer. That being said, we will start having a raffle again at each meeting. Also we are working on another project, a track cleaning tool that is very effected and cheap. This project has been use at the Columbus Club for quite some time and was the best kept secret, only because no one asked. There will be more information about both these items in the *Signal*.

We have a request from Division 3 to give us a presentation on the upcoming *MCR Convention* in Dayton. Mike Marinas will be at our April 7 division meeting with a power point summary of events. So if you plan to attend the convention don't miss this meeting.

7 April 2013

## St John's Lutheran Church Grove City, Ohio



**1:00:** St. John's Church opens (Rooms 103/104)

**1:05:** Division 6 Raffle

**1:30:** *2013 MCR Convention* by Mike Marinas

**2:00:** Contest Submissions closes

**2:30:** Clinic: *AP Forms* by Howard Smith. MMR

**2:45:** Division 6 Business Meeting and Bring & Brag

**3:45 (or meeting end):** Raffle Drawing



**Model Contest:** Steam Locomotive.

**Photography Contest:** Steam Locomotive.

**Next Division 6 Steering  
Committee Meeting  
8 May 7:30 PM  
at Matt Goodman's**

A reminder, to send in your ballot for the *2013 Mid-Central Region Election*, all should have received the *Kingpin* in January with the ballot in it. The deadline is April 1, 2013.

We have lost another Model Railroader in February. Dave E. Carte departed on February 6. He was a retired engineer with the CSX Railroad and a member of the Columbus Model Railroad Club. He was a good friend and modeler, we will truly miss him.

We would like to welcome (3) three new members to our division. They are as follows: Rick Azbell, Jay Bailey, and Robert Stiles. Welcome aboard.

**The Super's Report**  
Continued on page 8.

## Clerk's Report

Dexter Hill, Deputy Clerk

### Minutes for the 27 January Meeting Columbus HO Model Railroad Club

The Division 6 Business Meeting was called to order by Bob Lee, Division 6 Superintendent, at the Columbus Model Railroad Club building. Bob Lee thanked the Columbus Model Railroad Club for hosting this Division 6 Meeting.

#### Officers in Attendance:

Superintendent	Bob Lee
Assistant Superintendent	Bill Connell
Deputy Clerk	Dexter Hill
Director	Howard Smith, MMR
Director	Paul E. Smith
Director	Donald Wilke

#### Chairpersons Present:

Achievement Program	Howard Smith, MMR
Media	Matt Goodman
Program	Bill Connell
<i>Super's Signal</i> Publisher	Don Wilke
Web Master	Don Wilke

#### Mid-Central Region Officer Present:

President Dick Briggs, MMR, (part time)

**Clerk's Report:** Dexter Hill. The Superintendent asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the November 18, 2012, meeting minutes as shown in the latest *Super's Signal*. None were suggested. Don Wilke made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Paul Smith seconded. The motion was approved.

**Paymaster's Report:** John Gafney. The Paymaster was not present, so Bob Lee read the Paymaster's Report to

the attendees. Bob indicated that the all of Company Store inventory had been sold off for \$200.00. John Stuber made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Don Wilke seconded. The motion was approved.

**Program Report:** Bill Connell. Bill reported that he is working on the 2014 program and contest schedule. He indicated that the next meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church, on April 7, will have a clinic, contest and a bring & brag segment; the June 15 meeting in Marion will have also have a clinic, contest and bring & brag segment.

**Contest Report:** John Retterer. John reported that the contest results are:

- 1st - Bill Connell
- 2nd - Matt Goodman
- 3rd - John Retterer.

There was only one photo entered. It was entered by Ray Thibaut.

**Achievement Program Report:** Howard Smith, MMR. Howard presented two awards to Don Wilke, one for *Associate Volunteer*; the other for *Model Railroad Author*.

**Website Report:** Don Wilke. Don indicated that he had updated the contest information and the Time Table.

**Super's Signal Report:** Bob Lee. Bob confirmed that all members present had received a hard copy of the latest *Super's Signal*.

He said to contact him if anyone

**The Clerk's Report**  
Continued on page 3.

#### DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

##### Division 6 Superintendent

Robert E. Lee:

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

##### Assistant Superintendent

Bill Connell:

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

##### Deputy Clerk

Dexter Hill:

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

##### Pay Master

John Gafney:

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

#### Directors

Howard Smith, MMR,

Paul E. Smith,

Donald Wilke:

[Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

#### APPOINTED CHAIRS

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

**Contest:** John Retterer

**Media:** Matt Goodman

**Members Aid:** Howard Smith, MMR

**Membership:** Dave Mathney

**Program:** Bill Connell

**Web Master:** Don Wilke

#### Super's Signal Publisher

Donald Wilke:

[SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

#### DIVISION 6 WEB SITE:

[www.div6-mcr-nmra.org](http://www.div6-mcr-nmra.org)

#### Mid-Central Region President

Dick Briggs, MMR:

[president@midcentral-region-nmra.org](mailto:president@midcentral-region-nmra.org)

#### NMRA Central District Director

Robert Beaty, MMR

Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke

Continued: **The Clerk's Report**

needs to change the method (e-mail or regular mail) of delivery. The Superintendent encouraged members to take out a business card add in the *Super's Signal*.

**Media Report:** Matt Goodman. Matt said there have been no changes to the you tube videos since the last meeting. He has developed a Facebook page for the division. It is called the NMRA Buckeye Division.

**Division 6 on YouTube:**

[www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision](http://www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision)

**Membership Report:** Dave Matheny. The Superintendent read the Membership Report as Dave was not present. It indicated that the division membership total is 173 members. This is the same number of members reported in January 2012.

**MCR President's Report:** Dick Briggs. Dick was not present for this part of the meeting, so there was no MCR President's report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business brought up in this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NMRA Info-net:** The Superintendent read pertinent items from the NMRA Info-net to the attendees. Some items included: the NMRA Winter Board Meeting will be held in Georgia. Indianapolis is a possible location for the 2016 NMRA National Convention.

**2013 NMRA Mid-Central Region Convention:** The Superintendent encouraged the members to attend the MCR Convention in Dayton.

15-18 May 2013

Operations Dayton, MCR 2013 Convention

[www.mcr2013convention.com](http://www.mcr2013convention.com)

**New Contest Format:** Bob Lee described the new format for judging entries in the model contest. A form will be prepared for each model intended to provide feedback on how to improve the quality of the model. Judging of the model(s) to determine which is the best of all the entries will be done on the official NMRA *Judging Form*. It was reiterated that the winners of the photo contest would still be by popular vote. The Superintendent made it clear that the contest model judging is NOT part of the AP process. However, Howard Smith, A.P. Chair, did encourage members to submit models for evaluation working toward an AP award.

**Steering Committee Meeting:** The superintendent reminded everyone that the next steering committee meeting would be February 20, 2013, at Bill Connell's home.

**Signal Deadline:** The *Super's Signal* deadline is February 20, 2013.

**Next Division 6 Meeting:** Bob Lee reminded everyone that the next Division 6 Meeting would be on April 7 at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City.

**Model and Photo Contest:** The model and photo categories for the April meeting are Steam Locomotives.

**CLUB REPORTS**

**N Scalers:** They indicated that they had a good turnout at the Expo in Columbus on December 19 and 20. They suggested that the division consider renting a booth at a future model railroading Train Shows to encourage new members for the division. Bob Lee encouraged members to consider volunteering to assist in staffing a booth at a future Train Shows.

**Columbus MRR Club:** The Club thanks everyone who attended the meeting and remind them that club layout would be open until 4 p.m.

**COMRC:** No report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment:** John Retterer made a motion to adjourn, motion approved. Meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.

**Pike Ads**

Don Wilke, Signal Publisher

**Attention Division 6 Members;** back again – Pike Ads. Your Pike Ad will run from the next issue of the *Super's Signal* to the January 2014 issue for \$15.

**Requirements:** Division 6 member in good standing, a check to Paymaster John Gafney (payable to Division 6), and a business card (or a photo with business card ratio – NO pdfs) to Publisher Don Wilke.

Pike Ads may be in a single location or may be used as "filler" to finish out a page.



## Division 6 – 2013 Time Table

SUPER'S SIGNAL April 2013

Date	Event	Location	Contest
19 Dec	Steering Comm Meeting	Bob Lee's, 7:30, Reynoldsburg	
27 Jan	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus HO Model RR Club Layout: Columbus HO Model RR Club	Model: Revenue Car Photo: Unique Revenue Car
20 Feb	Steering Comm Meeting	Bill Connell's, Hilliard, 7:00	
20 Feb	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
<b>7 Apr</b>	<b>Division 6 Meeting</b>	Business Meeting: St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City Layouts:	Model: Steam Locomotive Photo: Steam Locomotive
<b>15-18 May</b>	<b>MCR Convention</b>	<i>Operations Dayton</i>	Modeler's Choice
<b>8 May</b>	<b>Steering Comm Meeting</b>	Matt Goodman's, Columbus, 7:30	
<b>8 May</b>	<b><i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline</b>		
15 Jun (Sat)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Marion Union Station, Marion, Ohio Clinics:	Model: Small Modular Layout, theme Motive Power Photo: Motive Power
14 Aug	Steering Comm Meeting	John Retterer's, Prospect, 7:30	
14 Aug	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Sep	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Joint Meeting with Division 9, Portsmouth, Ohio Layout: Mark Maynard's	Model: none Photo: none
11 Sep	Steering Comm Meeting	Howard Smith's, Grove City, 7:30	
11 Sep	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
13 Oct	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting:, Canal Winchester Layout:	Model: Non-Revenue Car Photo: Non-Revenue Car
23 Oct	Steering Comm Meeting	Dave Matheny's, Galloway, 7:30	
23 Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
17 Nov	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Coshocton Model Railroad Club Layouts: Coshocton Model Railroad Club	Model: Structure Photo: Unusual Structure
18 Dec	Steering Comm Meeting	Bill Connell's, Columbus, 7:00	
18 Dec	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		


**Stone Mountain & Central/Santa Fe R. R.**

**Robert E. Lee**  
Superintendent

*links East To West*

1130 Swanson CT.  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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Cell: 614-432-5149  
Email: locomo1003@sbcglobal.net





northern ohio terminal





## Program Notes

Bill Connell, Program Chair

At the April 7 Division 6 Meeting, we roll out the Division 6 Raffle as part of our meeting program. As I understand it, the type of raffle prize will vary a bit from one meeting to then next. Be sure to purchase your tickets early and often, and in large quantities.

Mike Marinas will present to the division membership, information

on the up coming regional convention in Dayton. Following Mike's presentation, Howard Smith will provide a short Achievement Program presentation.

We will again have the *Bring and Brag* session open to anyone who would like to show either a finished model, or one that is in the midst of production.

Also, be sure to bring your Kit Bashed Steam Locomotive for the Model Contest as well as one or two of your favorite Steam Locomotive photographs for the Photo Contest.



## Media Reports

Matt Goodman, Media Chair

### Division 6 on Facebook

Division 6 now has a presence on Facebook! For those of you who are Facebook members, stop reading now and search *NMRA Buckeye Division*, then "Like" us to get updates as they are posted.

The page is still undergoing development, both in actual content and evolving ideas of what the page will include, it's design, and it's purpose. If you are a Facebook aficionado and have ideas, please let myself or one of the officers or chairs know.

First I want to discuss the "why" of this page. Why do we need it? How is it different from the division website? Who can access it?

#### Why do we need it?

The guiding idea behind the Facebook Page is to give the division a toe hold into a communication channel that is mature and is currently not being tapped. For those of you who already have a Facebook account, this medium may already have become part of your daily life to a greater or lesser degree. For the rest of you (including the MediaChair - a proud Facebook luddite until recently), Facebook doesn't have and may never have a place in the way you communicate with others. However, it's important to recognize that the way we (as a society) communicate will never be static and our division needs to be somewhere on the fat part of the bell curve of adoption of new communication channels so we can keep a greater part of our membership engaged.

#### How is it different from the website?

Initially, the Facebook Page will largely mirror the information on the website, but with pictures! As an example, the first model contest under the new format and the first Bring and Brag occurred at the January meeting - and photos were up almost immediately!

What I hope it becomes is a more dynamic page with current information posted on a regular basis, so that you, the members of the division, know what is going on.

While I don't foresee it becoming a discussion board, it might! It's up to you, as division members, to ultimately make the decision on whether this page becomes a rich, active communication site, or withers and dies.

Right now, you will find a schedule of events, photos from the model contest and *Bring and Brag* at the first meeting this year. Check it out and comment!

#### Who can access it (and how)?

Currently the page is closed to general internet traffic - this means you have to be a Facebook member to see the content. There are pros and cons to this approach; better control of spam and other unwanted internet noise, vs. hiding the content from those without accounts. This, like the design and content, may evolve based on your feedback and as we gain experience with the tool.

In closing, the only "rule" around usage of the page is that the content will be related to our division activities, or events within our division that will be of interest to the membership. Examples might be announcements of train shows, the passage of a steam locomotive through town, operating sessions, etc., are examples.

Check out the page and leave us your comments on what you see, what you would like to see, what you don't want to see, or just post photos of Division 6 events.

### Find Division 6 on Social Media

#### Facebook

Search *NMRA Buckeye Division*, or surf to:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/NMRA-Buckeye-Division/255495804578345>

#### YouTube

Search *NMRA Buckeye Division*, on YouTube or surf to:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NMRABuckeyeDivision>



## 2013 Contests

*John Retterer, Contest Chair*

The meeting of January 27 had seven entrants in the model contest and one entrant in the photo contest. The category was Revenue Railcars in both model and photo contests.

The winners in the Model Category were:

- \*First Place: Bill Connell, flatcar with load.
- \*Second Place: Matt Goodman, Beer Refer.
- \*Third Place: John Retterer, drop bottom Gondola and a B&O Cement Car.

The winner in the Photo Category was:

- \* First Place: Ray Thibaut, Shot of an Oil Tanker.

The next meeting will be 7 April at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City. The Model Contest will be Steam Locomotive and the Photo Contest will be Steam Locomotives also. It's time to be making a decision on what models your going to take to the *MCR Convention*, 15-18 May 2013.



*Judges at work*



*First Place Photo  
Oil Tank Car by Ray Thibaut*



*First Place Model  
Loaded Flat Car by Bill Connell*

## Digitrax DH165LO Decoder Issue

*Dexter Hill*

Recently, I had a problem with a Digitrax DH165LO decoder that I had installed in a Life-Like Proto 2000 GP60 locomotive. This installation was a "plug 'n play" installation. I was able to program a new locomotive address and other CV features but I could not get the locomotive to run either forward or reverse with the Digitrax control unit. However, the locomotive would run in both directions if I used D.C. to control it. Since I was stumped as to a resolution for this problem, I wrote Digitrax tech support the following note:

I have installed a Digitrax DH165LO into a Life-Like Proto 2000 GP60 locomotive. The locomotive will not respond to forward or reverse commands. The lights on the locomotive do respond to the forward/reverse commands. If run on D.C., the locomotive will respond correctly in forward and reverse operation (the lights respond correctly too). I changed several

CVs (CV6 - 140, CV5 - 250) to see if that solved my problem. No change.

Digitrax tech support responded quickly to my request with the following response:

Most of the GP60 Life-Like locos were wired wrong in China for DCC decoders. They wired in number board lights and connected them to the corner pins on the 8 pin female plug which will damage DCC decoders. If you have one of those immediately disconnect the number board lights from those corner pins.

I followed their instructions and removed the wiring for the number board light. With this wiring removed, the locomotive responded correctly to forward and reverse commands from the Digitrax control unit and is working properly with regards to lights and CV changes.



Continued: **The Super's Report**

**NMRA Organizational Changes:** The following NMRA organizational changes have been announced:

1. Gerry Leone has resigned as Communications Director for personal reasons including some unfortunate personal snipes from other officials and the organization's slow pace of modernization.
2. At Large Worldwide Director, Tony Koester is retiring from the BOD due to term limits. Tony has served as a Director for the past six years. This position will be filled by the upcoming elections.
3. As a result of a disciplinary action the BOD declared the At Large North America Director position vacant. As a result, Miles Hale is no longer the ALNAD. A replacement will be named according to NMRA policy and procedures. Reference the NMRA web page for additional information.

4. Bill Kaufman, Vice President for Special Projects has resigned for personal reasons.
5. Tom Draper has been appointed Director of Support Services to fill any vacancies until a replacement can be found starting initially with the publication of the InfoNet News.
6. President Charlie Getz hastens to add there is no village coup in all of these changes but rather a combination of events that has led to a dynamic turnover. The NMRA is in good shape!

Our next Division 6 Meeting will be our Annual meeting on June 15 at the Marion Union Station in Marion, Ohio. Our next Steering Committee Meeting will be May 8 at Matt Goodman's home.

Thanks, Your Super - Bob Lee



## AP Report

*Howard R. Smith, MMR, AP Chair*

Two AP Certificates were awarded at the January Division meeting at the Columbus Model Railroad Club. They were *Association Volunteer* and *Model Railroad Author* both for Donald Wilke. Congrats to Don on

these awards and please thank Don for all his NMRA service. He always doing tasks that help makes the NMRA experience better for us all.



## Membership Report

*Dave Matheny, Membership Chair*

### The following memberships expire February 28, 2013:

Robert Albert	Karl Emler	Chris Walsh
Kenneth Beamer	John Frazier	Jonathan Young
James Caldwell	Robert Horner	
Carl Crowe	Michael Ippoliti	

### Active Members:

175 - February 1, 2013  
 173 - January 1, 2013  
 176 - December 1, 2012  
173 - February 1, 2012

### The following memberships expire March 31, 2013:

Steven Beyer	Joe Brackett	Paul Farley	Donald McKelvey	Marla Wright
Barbara Beyer	Fred Cathers	Michelle Farley	Jack Roberts	

Have you changed your address or other membership information?

Notify headquarters by email: [nmrahq@aol.com](mailto:nmrahq@aol.com)

By phone: 423-892-2846 (9am - 4:30pm, ET)

Or by mail to: NMRA, Inc.  
 4121 Cromwell Rd  
 Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119

The membership expiration reminders are provided as a courtesy to our members in case you may have forgotten or misplaced the renewal mailing sent by National.

Questions about when your membership expires can be handled by your Division 6 Membership Chair, Dave Matheny, [MembershipChair@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:MembershipChair@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

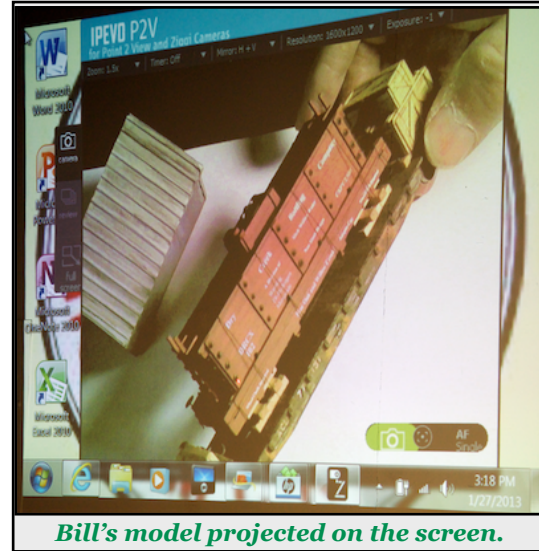




## Bring & Brag



*Bill Connell holds his First Place model under the camera.*



*Bill's model projected on the screen.*

## St. John's Lutheran Church 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

Robert E. Lee  
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SUPER'S SIGNAL April 2013

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every Tuesday evening from 7:00 pm to 10:00pm, at  
6471 Proprietors Rd., Worthington, OH 43085



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