

SUPER'S SIGNAL

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

February 2019



Superintendent's Report

Greg Short, Division 6 Super

January 2019 Super's Report

Hey gang, welcome to 2019. I hope everyone had a good holiday season and got everything they asked Santa for. As for me I did pretty good and Santa was nice to me for some reason, guess I really wasn't that bad after all. As we look back last year was a lot of fun, outside of it raining almost every day. We also lost friends in the modeling community, and we will always remember them.

Moving into 2019 we can look forward to more fun this year. The division decided to do another bus trip which will see us going to Age of Steam and Dennison. My plan is to do this in late July or early August. I will post more information as we put the plans together. Another item that is being worked on is the Swap Meet. I am pleased to say that the plans for this are for the most part set. We will have it on October 20th. This year we will have the meet in Cambridge at the Pritchard Laughlin Center. The Center is on US 40 just west of Cambridge and is very easy to get to. We have about 5000 sq. ft. to work in and should be able to get a good number of tables. We are still working on the final details but hope to have them completed by the end of January. As we move forward I will need to get volunteers to help put the event on. Most of the help will be on the day of the event and doing the

Super's Signal Deadline
14 March

advertising. Mike Wolf is working on the flyers and we will need to get the word out. Keep checking the Signal and our other media outlets for further info.

Keeping in mind the volunteer efforts. Bruce and his committee need several volunteers at different times to help with our tables at the various train shows. Please follow up with him on their needs. I will also need to find someone to take on the job of T-Trak chair. If you have not heard, Rich Hartley whom is now the chair is retiring from his job at the railroad and moving to Montana. When this happens he will no longer be able to continue on with his efforts. Which will say have been nothing short of great. He has

10 February

South High Library
3540 South High Street,
Columbus

1:00: Hilltop Library Opens

1:15: Contest entries open

1:45: Contest entries closes, voting begins

2:00: Contest voting ends, Division 6 Meeting begins

2:30: **Clinic:** *Maine's Narrow Gauge*, Butch Sage

Model Contest: Non-Revenue Car

Photography Contest: Non-Revenue Car

The Super's Report
Continued on page 3.

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS**Division 6 Superintendent**

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AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

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Dick Briggs, MMR,

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf:

Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org

APPOINTED CHAIRS

Achieve. Program: Dick Briggs, MMR

Contest: Jim Ruisinger

Media: Matt Goodman

Members Aid: Available

Membership: Matt Goodman

Program: Darrell Logan

Raffle: Harry "Butch" Sage

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Bob Weinheimer

president@midcentral-region-nmra.org

NMRA Central District Director

Robert Beaty, MMR

Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke

Clerk's Report

Patrick Hreachmack, Clerk

**Minutes for the Division 6,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Meeting for January 13, 2019
Columbus Hilltop Library**

The Division 6 Business Meeting was called to order by Greg Short, Division 6 Superintendent.

Division 6 Officers in Attendance:

Superintendent	Greg Short
Assistant Superintendent	Judy Logan
Clerk	Pat Hreachmack
Director	Don Wilke
Director	Mike Wolf

Division 6 Chairpersons Present:

Contest	Jim Ruisinger
Media	Matt Goodman
Membership	Matt Goodman
Program	Greg Short
Raffle	Greg Short
Super's Signal Publisher	Don Wilke
Web Master	Don Wilke
Yahoo Group	Jim Ruisinger

Guest: Joe Kimbitski of the Janis Club was present.

Clerk's Report: Pat Hreachmack: The Clerk's Report, as it appeared in the current *Super's Signal*, was approved..

Paymaster's Report: The Financial Report was approved pending audit.

All Other Reports: Greg Short. To keep this meeting quick due to the number of contest entries, Superintendent Greg asks that members refer to the upcoming *Signal* for the following reports.

Programs Report	Achievement Report
Web Master Report	Super Signal Report
Media Report	Membership Report
Company Store	Yahoo Group

OLD BUSINESS:

Lancaster Swap Meet: Mike Wolf. Mike briefly said that another NMRA/Division 6 recruiting table would be again set up at the Lancaster Swap Meet, 23 March. Let Mike or Bruce McDonald know if you would like to volunteer to man the table.

NEW BUSINESS:

T-Trak: Rich Harley. Division 6 is offering an interesting Give Away. Members may purchase a T-Track section and pay the cost upon delivery. Single sections are \$30 and Double sections are \$50. One to a customer! If your section is completed prior to the upcoming Mid Central Regional Convention in Boardman, and displayed at the convention, Division 6 will

The Clerk's Report
Continued on page 3.

brought great energy and enthusiasm into the project. My thoughts are to find someone to take up where he is leaving off. This means whoever it is needs to work with Rich before he has to go. If anyone feels up to it please let Rich or myself know and we can begin the process.

I would like to congratulate the members of the Kokosing Valley Club in Mt. Vernon on becoming a 100% NMRA club. I made a trip up on a meeting night to visit with and welcome them. I am hopeful that many of their members new to the division will take the next step and volunteer to help with the division efforts. Also we have plans to hold our meeting in April in Mt. Vernon.

Well it was good to see so many at the January meeting. Although we had some heavy weather the day before the road crews were able to get things opened up. We had a great showing for the contest with some very good models and photos. I can't remember the last time we had that amount of entries. I tried a new format for our meeting that did seem to speed things up, so I will continue along the same path. Along with this I am almost finished up with the rest of the years schedule so keep an eye on the division website for the updates.

Well that's about all for now so I will see some at the meeting next month and the rest till next time.

Happy Modeling – Greg



Continued: **The Clerk's Report**

refund your purchase price. You must have your section at Boardman one day prior to the opening of the convention. Please let Rich Hartley know if you want a section and again when you have your section ready.

Swap Meet: Greg Short. The Division Swap meet is now set for October 20 at the Pritchard Laughton Center in Cambridge. Let Greg know if you want a table.

Boy Scout Merit Badge: Greg Short. The next Boy Scout of America Model Railroad Merit Badge day will be in February, actual date and location TBD.

Bus Trip: Greg Short. Greg is setting up a bus trip to the Age of Steam Roundhouse for July or August. Date TBD but should be on a Saturday. Members asked if the trip could also include the Denison Station and Greg wants to make that happen too. Details at a later date.

Division Car Project: Greg Short. The Car Project is still in the early part of the process. If you have a suggestion not already put forth, please let Greg know.

ITEM OF INTEREST:

Caboose Relocation: Greg Short. The Central Ohio Club is assisting in setting up and old wood B&O caboose in Worthington on January 16. Location is the McCord Park.

Smoke Stack Hobbies: Greg Short. Smoke Stack Hobbies in Lancaster is hosting their annual hobby show on March 23rd. Please contact Smoke Stack for additional information.

CLUB REPORTS:

No club reports were provided.

CONTEST:

Contest Certificates: Jim Ruisinger. Annual awards were provided as follow:

Modeler of the Year:

1st Place: Howdy Lambrecht

2nd Place: Greg Short

3rd Place: Patrick Hreachmack

Photographer of the Year:

1st Place: Don Wilke

2nd Place: Matt Goodman

3rd Place: Peggy Doerflein

Contest Results: Contest results are presented elsewhere in the current edition of the *Signal*.

Raffle:

- HO winners, Judy Logan and Bruce McDonald.
- N winners, Danny Dennis and Judy Logan.
- Special raffle: Drawing will be after all tickets have been sold.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Next Division Meeting: The February meeting will be at the South High Library on February 10th.

Next Contest: Contest will be for Non-Revenue, MoW.

Clinic: *Painting backdrops* – Rich Hartley

Adjournment:



Division 6 – 2018 Time Table

Date	Event	Location	Contest
13 Jan	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus Library–Hilltop, Columbus Clinic: <i>Backdrop – to Finished Scenery (Part 1)</i> , Rich Hartley	Model: Open Freight Car WITH Load Photo: Open Freight Car WITH Load
17 Jan	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
10 Feb	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus Library–South High, Columbus Clinic: <i>Maine's Narrow Gauge</i> , Butch Sage	Model: Non-Revenue Car Photo: Non-Revenue Car
14 Feb	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
10 Mar	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Columbus Library–South East, Groveport Clinic:	Model: Non-Steam Locs Photo: Diesel & Electric L
14 Mar	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
22–23 Mar	RPM-East	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Model: Modeler's Choice Photo: Modeler's Choice
23 Mar	Lancaster Swap Meet	Lancaster	
14 Apr Tentative	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Mt Vernon Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Lineside RR structure Photo: Lineside RR structure
1 May	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
2–5 May	MCR Convention	Boardman, Ohio	Model: Modeler's Choice Photo: Modeler's Choice
15 June Saturday Tentative	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Marion Union Station, Marion	Model: Favorite Train Photo: Favorite Train
20 June	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Aug	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Thumbz / Whimsical RR models Photo: Railroad derelict / Wrecks
Aug	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Sept	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Steam Locomotive Photo: Steam Locomotive
Sept	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Oct	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Cabooses (Cabin Car) Photo: Cabooses (Cabin Car)
Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Nov	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Closed Freight Car Photo: Closed Freight Car
Nov	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Dec	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>TBD</i>	Model: Passenger Car Photo: Passenger Car
Dec	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		

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Membership Report December 2018

Matt Goodman, Membership Chair

Summary/Comments

Our membership continued its recent modest upward trend with a surge of year end renewals.

Our membership count is 176 as of the end of the year, up from 171 at the end of 2017. For various reasons, I can't account for all the changes, but here's a year end summary of member activity:

- 15 new members (the largest chunk coming from a club becoming full NMRA)
- Four re-rails. Re-rails are members who returned after their memberships lapsed.

- 109 renewals of one or more years.
- 32 life members
- 14 members left

Our existing members are our best resources for new members. Share your interest in the hobby with others who are curious – and ask that person to consider becoming one of your fellow members!

Active Members (end of the month):

December 176	December '17 171
November 173	November '17 170
September 172	September '17 169

Upcoming Expirations – Check your dates!

Note: If you have questions about when your membership expires, check your magazine address label or contact Membership Chair Matt Goodman.

We have twelve memberships expiring in the next two months.

Renewals and Re-Rails (returning lapsed members)

The end of the year is renewal season. We had fifteen renewals in November and eleven renewals in December.

Other Stuff

- Have you changed your address or other membership information?
- Are you not getting emails from the division?
- Not sure when your membership expires (or if it already has)?
Notify headquarters by email: nmrahq@aol.com

You can contact either the Buckeye Division membership chair, or the National Headquarters to give updates or get your questions answered:

National

Email: nmrahq@aol.com

Phone: 423-892-2846 (9am – 4:30pm)

Mail: NMRA, Inc.
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

Buckeye Division Membership Chair

Email: MembershipChair@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Phone: 614-313-3681 (please leave a message)

Mail: Matt Goodman
130 S. Algonquin Ave.
Columbus, OH 43204

Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

From the Contest Department: Contest Re-Cap – January 2019 at Columbus Hilltop Library.

There was an excellent turnout of models and photos for our January meeting at the Westgate Branch of the Columbus Library. Fifteen nice models and about a dozen great photo entries made it hard for members to select their favorite. Voting was tight and we had to make a couple of tie breaker decisions. Our contest subject was Open Freight Car with Load.

Winners in the Model Contest were:

1st Place: Patrick Hreachmack – Trashed German SdKfz.251 halftrack on flat car

2nd Place: Mike Wolf – PRR Piggy back trailer load on flat car

3rd Place: Mike Wolf – Ship screws (propellers) loaded in Gondola

Winners in the Photograph Contest were:

1st Place: Don Wilke – “Snap Track” load on N.S. flat car at Powell Rd

2nd Place: Matt Goodman – Camp Chase RR bridge sections on flat car

3rd Place: Mike Wolf – PRR Piggy back trailer load on flat car

Congratulations to our winners. I will have certificates for you at the next meeting which will Sunday February 10th at the South High Branch of the Columbus Public Library. Our subject matter will be: **Maintenance of Way / non-revenue equipment**. Examples would be equipment such as snow plows, wrecking cranes and fire-fighting cars, just to name a few. Remember, photos should be your own work and printed on good quality photo paper. Photos can be of the prototype or a model.

We will start running the cumulative point totals after the February meeting.

As always, if you have any questions about our contests, contact Contest Chair, Jim Ruisinger.



*“Snap Track” load on N.S. flat car at Powell Road
Don Wilke*



*“Trashed German SdKfz.251 halftrack on flat car
Patrick Hreachmack*

Division 6 Contests

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

As we jump into 2019, I want to take this opportunity to bring everyone up to speed on how our model and photo contests are structured. All of our model and photo contests at the division level are determined by popular vote and are open to any NMRA member in good standing. Models should be your own work, not someone else's. That goes for photos too. Models of anything that runs on rails, should be displayed on a piece of track. Photos should be printed on good quality photo grade paper and preferably mounted. Guidelines for photo sizes are outlined in the NMRA photo contest regulations and should not exceed 12" x 16". Models and photos that win (finish first) in a contest are ineligible to be entered again in a Division 6 contest.

The subject matter for each contest is as broad-based and general as we can make it, and also be consistent from year to year, to encourage more members to enter.

MODLER OF THE YEAR AND PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Any member entering a Division 6 contest will receive one point just for participating. That's one point per member per meeting, per category, regardless of how many entries you have. Additionally, winning entries will receive 3 points for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place, or 1 point for 3rd place. Cumulative totals will be kept by the Contest Chair and published in the *Signal*. After the December division meeting, the final results will be determined. In case of a tie, a coin flip by the Contest Chair in the presence of another NMRA member will break the tie. For 2019, the top 5 finishers will receive:

- * 1st place; A plaque recognizing you as Modeler of the Year or Photographer of the Year AND \$50
- * 2nd place; A certificate recognizing you as the runner up AND \$40
- * 3rd place; A certificate recognizing you AND \$30
- * 4th place; A certificate recognizing you AND \$20
- * 5th place; A certificate recognizing you AND \$10

It is hoped that the monetary carrot will provide an additional incentive for members to participate. We are all model railroaders (I assume) and are working on a layout or working with a group on a layout, building locomotives, cars, structures, etc. I also know we all love to take pictures of our models, the layouts we visit and of course, the real thing! I should point out that simply entering something in the contest can go a long way in helping you reaching the top! FYI, entering something in each of ten contests will total 10 points and in 2018 that would have been good enough for 3rd place in Model and 2nd Place in photo.

So, take a close look at this year's Contest Schedule and start planning your model and photo entries now!!!! If you have any questions, please contact the Contest Chair.

2019 Division 6 Contest Subjects

Mtg 1	January 13 – Columbus Hilltop Library Open Car with Load	Mtg 6	August – TBD Model: Thumbz (Humorous Whimsical stuff) Photo: Railroad Derelicts / Wrecks
Mtg 2	February 10 – Columbus South Library Non-Revenue - MOW	Mtg 7	September – TBD Steam Locomotives
Mtg 3	March 10 – Columbus Southeast Library Diesel and Electric Locomotives (non-Steam)	Mtg 8	October – TBD Cabeese
Mtg 4	April 14 – Mt. Vernon Line Side RR structures	Mtg 9	November - TBD Closed Freight Cars
Mtg 5	June 15 – Marion Union Station Favorite Train	Mtg 10	December – Upper Arlington Library (tentative) Passenger Cars



Scioto Valley Railroad

Matt Goodman

SUPER'S SIGNAL February 2019

My model railroad was open after January 13th's division meeting and to my great pleasure, about nineteen people made the short hike from the Library to my house. Don suggested I do a short write up about the railroad. Well, not so short...

First, the Boilerplate:

I model the N&W through Circleville, Ohio in 1938 in HO scale. Before starting this layout, I had planned a fictional, single track railroad, set in somewhere, USA in the steam era, based loosely on a John Armstrong plan. How did I get from those vague ideas to this very specific one? I'm glad you asked...

The Era:

The choice of a general time frame was based on several things - the primary being that I like steam locomotives. I grew up in a house full of books covering every aspect of steam locomotives **and** I spent a lot of time around a working steam locomotive (Hocking Valley Scenic's #33) during its restoration and service shortly after man landed on the moon. Once you experience the smells, sounds and movements of a steam locomotive, it **cannot** be shaken!

However, the "steam era" is about 130 years wide in the U.S. Narrowing it down to the late thirties was based on a desire to keep trains short for operating and aesthetic reasons. The 1930's were a time of shorter cars (most cars were forty feet or less) and locomotives from the teens were still in wide use - both of which help keep train length compact. Operationally, this means sidings can be shorter, industries can hold more cars and the distance between towns can seem longer - i.e., you can fit more railroad in the same space. Aesthetically, shorter cars will look more natural on a model railroad's tighter curves.

Conversely, the late thirties is also the period when modern steam - the locomotives that dad remembers as a kid - were fully developed. The state of the art locomotives that the N&W is famous for - the Class A's and Y6's - were on the rails by 1936, making 1938 a great mix of old and new.

The Location:

My choice of location came a couple of years later than the era. I chose the location for its relevance. My parents grew up in Circleville, and I crossed those tracks many times as a kid while being transported to and from my grandparents. It's also the place that dad watched trains, spent many hours in the PRR/N&W interlocking tower with Wink Wellington (the tower operator) and where my aunts and uncles have memories of the industries and happenings. It's hard to beat that kind of human intelligence! I've noticed as the layout has developed that mom and dad, when seeing a structure on the railroad, suddenly remember a story from that place. That adds depth to a model railroad's story.

The City of Circleville began as a short spot on my older, mostly free-lanced plans. As I learned more about it, Circleville became more interesting and continued to grow, and now takes up one wall.

Design:

Excepting my earliest track plans, all of my design was done in CAD, using a Windows program called CADRail (<http://www.cadrail.com>). CAD has many benefits, but the ones I found the most useful over time is its ability to keep you honest about what will fit in your space. No more hoping that a certain grade won't be too steep or curve too tight - you'll know. That in turn leads to few surprises during construction.



ESMERALDA CANNING CO. in Circleville

A side, but not insignificant, benefit is knowing your room dimensions, which is useful for other, non-railroad planning.

Circleville - <https://goodman312.zenfolio.com/img/s/v-2/p553374358-4.jpg>

Benchwork:

The benchwork construction uses a fairly common approach; it is open grid and modular, with each module being four to six feet long and about two feet deep. I initially used dimensional lumber - all 1x4 or smaller - that was recycled from other home projects. I soon started cutting dimensional-sized lumber from sheets of plywood (also recycled). Visitors may have noticed many different colors - that's a reflection of wood's previous use. I'd often read that plywood makes a more stable construction material, and time has proven that to be the case.

I'm most proud of two radial sections of benchwork built to support curving sections of the railroad. This required a lot of precisely angled cuts that were made possible by designing the benchwork in CADRail. If the drawing said a stick of lumber needed to be 23 1/8" long with a 7 degree cut on both ends to fit - and I cut it accurately, it would fit. It made me look like a pro.

Radial benchwork under the north end of Circleville - <https://goodman312.zenfolio.com/img/s/v-3/p980808210-4.jpg>

Roadbed:

My subroadbed/roadbed construction method is less common - spline. Splines make for very efficient material usage (a sheet of the material can be made into any roadbed shape), and make flowing right of ways since the material makes natural easements into curves. Splines are commonly constructed of multiple thin layers of pine, Masonite, or Homasote laminated together. After considering the different materials, I chose Homasote for two main reasons:



Scioto Valley Railroad Bench work. Circleville is to the right.

- You can spike directly into it, so there is no need for a separate roadbed layer, such as cork.
- The splines can be assembled with screws. This is quick, clean (no glue) and if adjustments are needed, it can be disassembled.

Homasote comes in 4x8 foot sheets, 1/2" thick. To make the splines, the sheet is cut into 23 two-inch wide strips. I use a home-made fixture and a circular saw to do this. Cutting it brings out one of the downsides - it's pretty messy to cut. The strips are screwed together to create the roadbed profile - including the ballast shoulder.

Cutting Fixture - <https://goodman312.zenfolio.com/img/s/v-2/p1176670446-4.jpg>

Mess - <https://goodman312.zenfolio.com/img/s/v-2/p1378998708-4.jpg>

Roadbed Profile - <https://goodman312.zenfolio.com/img/s/v-3/p2718014163-4.jpg>

Overview - <https://goodman312.zenfolio.com/img/s/v-3/p2718014161-4.jpg>

Backdrop:

The backdrop uses a neat method I learned from local modeler Dave Matheny - aluminum trim coil. This material is typically used for cladding house details and forming gutters. For backdrop, its main advantages are quick installation and lack of seams. For example, I have

about 85 feet of backdrop, with only one seam which is made invisible with body putty. Even an excellent modeler like Howdy Lamprecht couldn't find it!

Backdrop splice, showing details of how the trim coil is attached to the wall -

<https://goodman312.zenfolio.com/img/s/v-2/p1478112253-4.jpg>

Track:

My track of choice for visible areas is Central Valley Tie Strips with code 83 and code 70 Micro Engineering rail. This is also a less common approach (I admit that I am attracted to the road less travelled) that lies somewhere between flex track and hand laid. Non visible areas will use Atlas code 83. Turnouts are a mix of fixture and hand-built, depending on the location.

Central Valley Ties <https://share.icloud.com/photos/oCQgMJQm2mKs5p96kss6zUQqw>

Scenery:

Scenery is a bit sparse right now, consisting of a farm scene that Christy constructed as a means of practicing various scenery methods. Almost all of Circleville's buildings are in place, though all but two are place-holder buildings constructed foam core board and cardboard. Foam core is extremely easy to work with, making it easy to several variants of a building until it looks and fits "right".

Maizo Mills building mockup - https://share.icloud.com/photos/oYT9hvH1d_nDVMoL9s1afkQRw

Conclusion:

I have a long way to go on this railroad, but have learned an awful lot to get to this point. A lot of thanks go to my wife for her encouragement and project planning. For more details, see my YouTube channel -

[mygoodman312](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8m312).

[Layout Construction](#)



Next on the Agenda?

Darrell Logan

At the last meeting Rich Hartley provided a clinic of background for your backdrop. As you observed the method was both very easy and simple. We will continue the backdrop clinics at a couple of upcoming meetings.

For February, Harry "Butch" Sage will be presenting his clinic on the Maine's Narrow Gauge. He has a fantastic program that will help introduce you to a Narrow Gauge that is not located in the Rockies or the West. This will be a welcome change from all the how to clinics we have been presenting. This clinic serves as a double edge sword, as many of the things that will be presented could be modified to standard gauge or

even WIDE gauge. Looking forward to seeing this outstanding clinic.

While we are discussing Butch Sage, don't forget to purchase your chances on the "Special Raffle". If I recall correctly, only 21 tickets are left. Here you have a chance at an outstanding book on railroading. We felt that the content should help inspire some of you to get back to the layout room or perhaps even start a layout if you have not already done so.

Looking forward to see you at the South High Library for our next meeting.

Remember "don't just belong, but participate".



Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee (MRRC) Update Take a Friend to a Division 6 Meeting

Bruce McDonald

Start planning now! Invite a friend, co-worker, relative, or someone you met while shopping at your local hobby store to the next special meeting of Division 6. The annual meetings at Portsmouth and Marion are perfect places to show off our organization. The division meeting in Mt Vernon in April will be another great opportunity to bring a guest. The next time we take a road trip to someplace like The Age of Steam Roundhouse, invite someone along. Remember that some events, especially road trips by bus, require NMRA membership. So, take the opportunity to help get new Rail Pass member! Rail Pass membership is a great way to introduce someone to the NMRA for just \$19.95. (See details at:

<https://www.nmra.org/trial-membership>)

Also encourage everyone you know who is already a member of NMRA to attend Division 6 meetings. It's exciting to track the progress of Mark Maynard's layout in Portsmouth—especially tree house/fort conversion to a remote dispatcher's office. It's fun and educational to attend the great clinics in Marion accented by the frequent train traffic through the diamond.

Plan ahead; invite members of your local train club or fellow operators to a Division 6 meeting. Share the fun.

(If you are unable to volunteer for the Buckeye show, you can volunteer for future train shows. Details later.)



3D Printing Clinic Follow Up

Mike Wolf

Just a quick follow up to the clinic I presented last year on the design and printing of customs parts using 3D Computer Aided Design (CAD) software and printing. I've created a lot of parts since then and have finally gotten around to painting them.

As I discussed, the printer leaves a waxy residue in spots when using the fine detail/high resolution material. I've searched a good bit on the internet and have used the following process with good results. I soak the parts in a solvent called Bestine (used to thin or remove rubber cement). I couldn't find it locally but it is available from Amazon. It's pretty volatile stuff so do so in a well ventilated area and with proper skin and lung protection.

I leave the part(s) in the Bestine for less than a half hour and swish it around a couple times before moving them to an ultrasonic cleaner with a standard degreasing/cleaning solution. The ultrasonic cleaner also has a heating element and I have used that gentle warmth (100-120 degrees approximately) to "soften" the plastic and reshape any parts that have warped a little in curing or shipping. A quick rinse in water and air dry follows the cleaning.



BoxCab
Photo: Mike Wolf

Occasionally, there will still be a couple flecks of wax in the nooks and crannies but for most part, everything has come out paint ready at that point. If assembly involved handling the parts without gloves after the cleaning, I'd recommend another quick soapy water clean and rinse (as you would with most models) prior to priming and painting to remove any skin oils. A photo of my pre-paint 3D printed boxcab is shown. There are over twenty 3D printed parts as well as wire and styrene details added to the exterior (and even more on the interior).



Programs

Darrell Logan, Program Chair

Last year, the Membership Committee conducted a survey among the division members to help determine what could be done to improve member turnout and at the same time attract new members. Two of the most often listed were clinics and layout tours. With that in mind, I as, Program Chair, was directed to "Make it so".

Over the next few sessions we are going to talk, show, and build some more on these skills. Hopefully, when we finish you will have taken the bull by the horns and build some great scenery and backdrops. Speaking of backdrops the following is from NMRA Requirement for Scenery. Background – Treatment of wall, backdrop, or ceiling to realistically depict depth and distance, horizon and sky. In other words, a block wall is still a block wall even if it is painted sky blue.

Now that you have read this, just how do you accomplish that? Good question. The best answer—just do it. Worst case, you paint the sky over and start again. I certainly did just that more than once. In the first installment, we are starting on a wall that has had the block hidden and a smooth surface has been painted "sky blue". When I did my backdrop I started with Masonite mounted against the wall and nailed to the header plate. Others have used drywall with seams

covered and sealed, other have used different materials.

Next comes the question – to curve or not to curve. Depending on your choice of material this can be easy or extremely difficult. I like easy and avoiding a 90 degree corner. We will discuss some of the pros and cons of a curved backdrop.

No matter your choice of curved or not the rest of this clinic is a hands on demo to allow you to see one method of creating a backdrop. Richard is going to demo the method he used to create his backdrop on his layout. He will do it all with easy painting techniques. He will be painting hills trees and other details directly on the backdrop. Next month I will show you how a used printed photographs and instant backdrops to build my version. The color we will be using is from Sherman-Williams and is called sky blue. I will provide the color number for this paint at the clinic. It is a standard mix from Sherman-Williams paint stores. Each store has a copy of the paint and tints required to create this color.

See you at the meeting and hopefully you will gather some and insight in to painting a backdrop.

See ya there, Darrell



Pike Ads

Don Wilke, Signal Publisher

Attention Division 6 Members; back again for 2019 – Pike Ads. Your Pike Ad will run from the next issue of the *Super's Signal* to the first issue for 2018. Pike Ads may be in a single location or may be used as "filler" to finish out a page.

Payment: A check (payable to Division 6, MCR-NMRA) to Paymaster, Dexter Hill, 5035 Ashville-Fairfield Road, Ashville, OH, 43103, c/o of Dexter Hill.

Copy: Send a business card (or a photo with business card ratio – NO pdfs) to Publisher Don Wilke at SuperSignalEditor@div6-mcr-nmra.org.

Cost: Division 6 member in good standing: \$15.
A Division 6 member small business: \$20.
Central Ohio Hobby Shop: \$30.



Division 6 on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:

NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]



Division 6 to “Give Away” N Scale T-TRAK Modules!

Richard Hartley, T-TRAK Chair

WHAT IS T-TRAK?

“T-TRAK is a modular model railroad system based on a few standards for module size, track placement, track interface, and electrical connections. The minimal standards allow for a wide range of flexibility in design yet still maintain interoperability with all modules built per the standards. The popularity of T-TRAK is worldwide allowing for modules from all over the world to connect together”.

“T-TRAK modules are dioramas with sectional track, specifically Kato Unitrack, that snap together to create layouts from a simple circle to large complex layouts. The modules are designed to fit on tables but could just as easily be setup on any flat surface from the floor (yes, around the Christmas tree) to taller bench work. Layouts are easy to assemble and even easier to disassemble for those that do not have permanent space for a layout. The convenient size of the modules make them easy to store on a shelf or in totes when not in use, or to transport should the need arise. T-TRAK is the logical next step in model railroading”. (<http://t-trak.org/index.html>).



A picture of my first T-TRAK module “Grandma’s House”.

Photo: Rich Hartley

The NMRA has chosen to get behind this concept of modules. All the divisions nationwide have been encouraged to support this concept. So to encourage Division 6 members to build and display a module the program described below is being implemented.

THE “GIVE AWAY”

What do I need to do to get one of these modules for free? Place your order with Dexter Hill and let him know if you want a single module (\$30) or a double module (\$50) size module. This price includes Kato track. You pay for your module upon delivery. This offer is limited to one module per current Division 6 member and you must be a member through May of 2019.

What is that you say? I thought you said it was free! Well you will get your money back if you display your finished module at the Mid Central Region Convention at Boardman, Ohio (*The Bullet 2019*) in May (2 May through 5 May). Your order must be in by 15 February 2019.



A different view of “Grandma’s House”.

Photo: Rich Hartley

POC for orders: Dexter Hill, beagleman9@aol.com, Phone: (614) 595-7170.

For questions concerning T-TRAK: Rich Hartley, rwh287@yahoo.com, Phone: (614) 946-3723.

USEFUL LINKS:

<http://ttrak.wikidot.com>. The T-TRAK Wiki - Module photos, construction tips, and more.

<http://www.katousa.com>. Manufacturer of Unitrack, which is the required interface track for T-TRAK modules

T-TRAK Module Give Away

Continued on page 14.

<http://www.masterpiecemodules.com>. A supplier of T-TRAK module kits and screws to affix Kato track to modules.

<https://www.divi-mcr-nmra.org/the-acy-bullet-2019>.

Mid Central Region Convention: *The Bullet 2019* in Boardman, Ohio. National Model Railroad Association, May 2-5, 2019.

INFORMATION ON THE MODULES:

N T-Trak Single 14" deep Flush Deck Dimensions: 12.12" x 14.00" x 2.75". (Includes four pieces of track, 2 each of Kato number 20-020 and 20-010). (\$30).

N T-Trak Double 14" deep Flush Deck Dimensions: 24.33" x 14.00" x 2.75". (Includes eight pieces of track, 4 each of Kato number 20-000 and 20-040). (\$50).

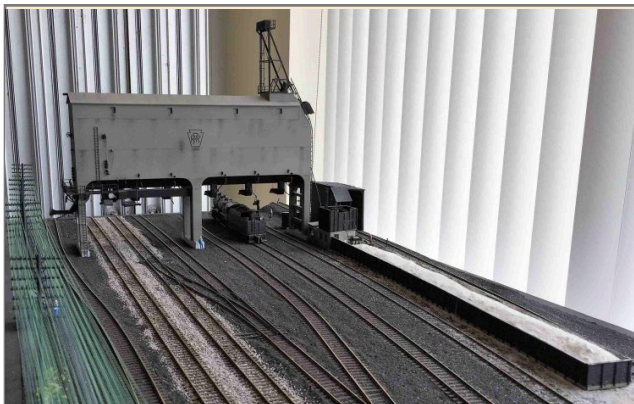


Make Plans to Attend RPM-East!

Eric Hansmann, RPM-East Web and Publicity Guy

It is time to make your RPM-East plans and rekindle your modeling efforts after a long, cold winter! Two months remain until this prototype modeler gathering in suburban Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There will be plenty of action March 22 & 23.

- two days of prototype and model presentations
- a large display room to share your modeling efforts and learn new techniques
- a variety of vendors selling goods for prototype modeling
- Thursday evening operating sessions on local model railroads and an informal Saturday buffet
- Sunday model railroad layouts to visit



RMP-East
Photo: unknown

Early bird registration is only \$35 (until March 1), with an additional banquet cost of \$29.

There is a special hotel room rate of \$95 per night.

Registration forms, hotel information and more can be found at the RPM-East website:

http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/index.htm

RPM-East is sponsored by Division 2, MCR-NMRA.



RMP-East
Photo: unknown

The following modelers and historians are committed for our meet.

John Albert, Keith Albright, David Bott, Brian Carlson, Ted Culotta, Larry DeYoung, Jim Elster, John Greene, Bill Hanley, Eric Hansmann, Ron Hoess, Bernard Kempinski, Dennis Lippert, Rick Mahaney, Bob Meier, Bill Neale, David Owens, Jim Panza, Dave

Ramos, Ramon Rhodes, Greg Smith, Robert Sprague, Steve Stewart, Mont Switzer, John Teichmoeller, David Wilson, and Kaylee Zheng.

Presentation titles will be posted soon to the RPM-East website. A tentative presentation schedule will be posted to the website in February.

http://www.hansmanns.org/rpm_east/index.htm

Set your schedule and register now for RPM-East!



