

Super's Signal

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

April 2020

Superintendent's Report

Greg Short, Division 6 Super

Hey gang, it's time again for my thoughts on the doings of our division. First of all, I need to address the biggest issue facing all of us right now. The panic that has affected us all. The whole issue with the flu that is going on has caused most of the meetings and shows to cancel. For now, this has not affected the division other than we do not have to have our membership table at the Smoke Stack's Show. All I can say to everyone is be careful, use proper hygiene and if you feel sick stay home. For now, the next meeting in Zanesville will go on as planned. If there needs a change made, we will do so at the proper time.

Now for better news, we had a great turnout for the meeting at the Smoke Stack. We need to thank Don and the staff at the shop for opening up and allowing us to meet there. As always it was great to see what changes they have made. We also need to thank the Hocking Valley Club for coming in and operating their layout for us. The layout has come along nicely and it is good to see the club still active.

It was great to see the models and photos in the contest. Congratulations to those who won and thanks to the other who entered. So far this year we have had very good turnouts for the contests, I hope that we keep it up for the rest of the year.

As for the rest of the year, I have only gotten one suggestion for a new venue to hold our meetings. As I stated before if you have an idea let me know as I am in the process of getting the rest of the year

19 April The Zane Trace and National Trail Model Railroad Club, 24 South 6th Street, Zanesville

1:00: Zanesville Club 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: *Developing Operating Sessions*, Mike Wolf, MMR

Model Contest: Line-Side Railroad Structure

Photography Contest: Line-Side Railroad Structure

*Super's Signal Deadline
23 April*

put together. Going on with that one thing that is set is our train show. We have made a change in the opening time to the show from 11 am to 10 am. We adjusted the time to answer a request to do so and we will see how it works out. What

this means for us is we have to have more folks there earlier in the day for set up and to get going. I will have more on this as we get later in the summer. One item with the show we do need to get going with now is to get flyers out to the hobby shops around the state. If during your travels you come across a shop look for the flyers and if you don't see any let me know so we can get some to them. I would really like to get as many shops as possible covered to help bring folks to the show.

I am working with Bowser Trains to come up with a covered hopper to be our next project. We need to do this for a couple of reasons. One: we need to get a new fundraiser for the division. Two: we need to have

The Super's Report
Continued on page 4.

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS**Division 6 Superintendent**

Greg Short: 10515 Brownsville Rd
Brownsville, Ohio 43721

Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Div. 6 Assistant Superintendent

Judy Logan:

AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Clerk

Patrick Hreachmack:

DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Pay Master

Dexter Hill:

Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Directors

Matt Goodman,

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf, MMR:

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: Mike Wolf, MMR

Raffle: Harry "Butch" Sage

Division 6 io.Group: Jim Ruisinger

Web Master: Don Wilke

Super's Signal Publisher

Donald Wilke:

SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org

DIVISION 6 WEB SITE:

www.div6-mcr-nmra.org

Mid Central Region President

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 Division 6,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Meeting for 8 March 2020
at Smoke Stack Hobbies,
Lancaster**

The Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Greg Short, Division 6 Superintendent, at 2:05 p.m.

Division 6 Officers in Attendance:

Superintendent	Greg Short
Assistant Superintendent	Judy Logan
Clerk	Pat Hreachmack
PayMaster	Dexter Hill
Director	Matt Goodman
Director	Don Wilke
Director	Mike Wolf, MMR

Division 6 Chairpersons Present:

Achievement Program	Dick Briggs, MMR
Company Store	Greg Short
Contest	Jim Ruisinger
.IOGroup	Jim Ruisinger
Inspector of Elections	Harry "Butch" Sage
Media	Matt Goodman
Membership	Matt Goodman
Membership Retention	Bruce McDonald
Raffle	Harry "Butch" Sage
Super's Signal Publisher	Don Wilke
Train Show	Greg Short
Web Master	Don Wilke

Reports:

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

Paymaster's Report: Dexter Hill. The Financial Report was approved pending audit. Paymaster Dexter will be sending out several checks for an additional \$5 to members for T-TRAK reimbursement.

Programs Report: Greg Short. Division 6 meetings are covered through June. Greg will continue putting together plans for future meetings.

Achievement Report: Dick Briggs. Although several are in process, their paperwork is not yet complete.

Super's Signal Report: Don Wilke. Articles for the next *Signal* are due March 12.

Web Master Report: Don Wilke. No new information was provided.

Media Report: Matt Goodman. No new information was provided.

Membership Report: Matt Goodman. Matt reported that at the end of January there were 168 division members. Also, he asked for help for someone to manage the membership after May. Please let Matt know if you are interested..

Company Store: Greg Short. No new information.

The Clerk's Report
Continued on page 3.

Continued: **The Clerk's Report**

Groups.io: Jim Ruisinger. There are 70 division members on the new email list. Groups.io includes a calendar on which could be placed all sorts of scheduled events. Give information to Matt Goodman or Jim Ruisinger for this and for the Facebook page and calendar.

Old Business:

Division 6 Elections Ballots: Greg Short. Your ballot much be received by Butch Sage, Inspector of Elections, by the end of today meeting.

Name Tags: Greg Short. Greg has name tags for those without.

New Business:

Division Train Show: Greg Short. Greg reported that the now *Annual Division Train Show and Swap Meet* will be in the same location as last year. This year it will occupy the full building and hope to include layouts including T-TRAK. The date for the Train Show will be October 18. Set up and break down are limited to the same day as the show. Otherwise the division would have to shell out another \$1K for an additional day rental.

Lancaster Train Show: Bruce McDonald. The Lancaster Train Show will be March 28 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We are looking for six (6) volunteers, three each for 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. and for 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. A signup sheet was placed on a side table. Four depot kits remain, at \$15 each.

Club Reports:

Central Ohio Model Railroad Club has been seriously revamping their layout. Membership is reminded that COMRC operates a number of different scales all at the same location.

No other club reports were provided.

Raffle:

Butch Sage. Butch reported that only 8 tickets are left in the special raffle for the diesel locomotive. The raffle will be closed and the winner drawn **ONLY** when all tickets are sold.

Book: Won by Bruce McDonald

B&O Covered Hopper: Won by Don Wilke

Nebraska Consolidated hopper: won by Darrell Logan

Tools: Won by Mike Spinks

Awarded Certificates:

Jim Ruisinger. Certificates were handed out for last month's contest winners. The contest was Maintenance of Way.

Models: 3rd Place: Darrell Logan; **2nd Place:** Steve Hurt; **1st Place:** Steve Hurt

Photos: 3rd Place: Bruce McDonald; **2nd Place:** Don Wilke; **1st Place:** Matt Goodman

Congratulations to all winners! Let's keep those contests moving forward!

Contests:**Models:**

1st Place: Jerry Hurt: 2 axel diesel NW Shortline critter

2nd Place: Steve Hurt: Utah Belt Line diesel locomotive

3rd Place: Howdy Lambrecht: Box Cab #7

Photos:

1st Place: Jerry Hurt: Grand Trunk Loco

2nd Place: Don Wilke: NS on the Cuyahoga Valley high bridge

3rd Place: Matt Goodman: UP 7489

Good of the Order:

Next Division Meetings: Our April 19 meeting will be at the Zanesville Club, 24 South 6th Street, Zanesville.

Mid Central Region Convention: If you have not yet registered for the NMRA Division 2 Convention in Pittsburgh, please consider doing so ASAP. This will be a wonderful Convention that should not be missed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Clinic:

William Morgan presented a clinic on *Wiring & Automation*.

If you have a clinic to provide to the division, please notify Mike Wolf and discuss the clinic with him.

Lancaster Hobby Expo and Swap Meet

The Division 6 Member Recruitment and Retention Committee is sponsoring two tables at the 2020 Annual Lancaster Hobby Expo and Swap Meet. We still need volunteers to help with our primary goal of recruiting new members for the NMRA. Our Division 6 banner attracts some people. The T-TRAK layout and the G to Z scale gondola display attract others, and even the NMRA marketing brochures attract a few. **It's NOT work, it's FUN.**

Where? Fairfield County Fairgrounds (12 E Fair Ave, Lancaster, OH, 43130)

When? Saturday, March 28, 2020, the first shift is from 7:30–11:30 AM and the second shift is from 11:30 AM–3:30 PM

If you can help at the show please contact Bruce McDonald (614) 595-7608.

something to sell at our show. The planned car will be an Ohio Central 70 ton covered hopper. More info will come as this comes about.

Well, that's about all I can think of now so everyone be careful and safe.

Well, that's about all for now.

Till later, Happy Modeling – Greg

Membership Chair Opportunity

Matt Goodman, Membership Chair

I will soon be moving on to other responsibilities in Division 6. I need to relinquish the chokehold I've held on the Membership Chair position. I am, thus, looking for someone interested in applying their chokehold on the position.

If you're interested in getting more involved with the division, this is a fun place to start. It's where I began, so newbies - like I was - are welcome (and encouraged!). The work is not overly time-consuming; I spend 1-2 hours per month for regular tasks. You might be faster. And, of course, anyone who takes the job will get plenty of support from me, if you need it. I won't leave you on an island.

What's involved, you ask? Monthly tasks:

- Update the division's roster. The roster is spreadsheet-based, so it requires some level of comfort with Excel. I store the file in Dropbox for backup and sharing purposes. The update process is partly automated and takes about 15-30 minutes.
- Create a mail merge in MS Word for the postcard labels. The mail merge uses the spreadsheet as the source, making it mostly automated. I store the file in Dropbox until needed for Postcards. 10 minutes.
- Send welcome emails to new members. 0-30 minutes.
- Update the MailChimp mailing list used for *Super's Signal* notifications. 10 minutes.
- Write a membership report for the *Super's Signal*. This takes as long as you want, but generally about 20 minutes.
- There is occasional ad hoc work that comes from members (questions or updates), from other committees, officers, or other sources.

Like many roles in Division 6, this one is flexible enough to make it your own. I've been doing this for around six years, and have tweaked it quite a bit since I took over. I'm sure that whoever takes it on will (I hope!) find many ways to improve it even further.

If you're interested or have questions, contact me at the following address – and thanks!

mgoodman312@icloud.com

Contest Point Summary March 2020

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

Modeler

Steve Hurt	9	Dan Dennis	1
Pat Hreachmack	5	Bob Doerflein	1
Jerry Hurt	4	Alan Evens	1
Howdy Lamprecht	4	Connie Frazze	1
Richard Matejovic	4	Matt Goodman	1
Peggy Doerflein	3	Bill Hanna	1
Darrell Logan	3	Bob Lee	1
Greg Short	3	Judy Logan	1
Jim Borcz	2	Harry Sage	1
Jim Ruisinger	2		

Photographer

Matt Goodman	9	Bruce McDonald	2
Don Wilke	8	Peggy Doerflein	1
Steve Hurt	4	Richard Matejovic	1

Special Note: Please relay our desire that photos be on good quality photo paper stock and not just any old paper. Photo paper can be glossy or matte finish.

Division 6 – 2020 Time Table

Date	Event	Meeting	City
4-5 Jan	Great American Train	Fairgrounds	Columbus
12 Jan	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Hilltop Library</i> Clinic: <i>Static Grass Applicator</i> , Darrell Logan & Rich M9 Contest: Open Freight Car WITH Load	Columbus
16 Jan	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
9 Feb	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>South-East Library</i> Clinic: <i>Weathering Cars</i> , Matt Goodman & Mike Wolf Contest: Non-Revenue Car	Groveport
14 Feb	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
8 March	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Smoke Stack Hobbies</i> Clinic: <i>Wiring & Automation</i> , William Morgan Contest: Non-Steam Locomotive	Lancaster
12 Mar	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
19 Apr	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zanesville Club</i> Clinic: <i>Developing Operating Sessions</i> , Mike Wolf, MMR Contest: Line-Side Railroad Structure	Zanesville
23 Apr	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
28–31 May	MCR Convention	<i>The Steel City Express</i> Contest: <i>Modeler's Choice</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa
20 Jun (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Marion Union Station</i> Clinic: <i>DCC++</i> , Richard Matejovic; <i>Weathering with Powder</i> , Patrick Hreachmack; <i>Super Detailing a Bowser Loco Kit</i> , Mike Wolf (MRR); <i>TBD</i> Contest: Favorite Train	Marion
25 Jun	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Aug	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Model Contest: Thumbz (Humorous Whimsical stuff) Photo Contest: Railroad Derelicts / Wrecks	TBD
Aug	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Sep	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Model Contest: Steam Locomotive with Caboose Photo Contest: Steam Locomotive	TBD
Sep	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Oct	Division 6 Train Show	Business Meeting: NONE Clinic: NONE Contest: NONE	Cambridge
Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Nov	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: TBA Contest: Closed Freight Car	TBD
Nov	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
Dec	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Contest: Passenger Car	TBD
Dec	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline	<i>Election Issue</i>	

Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

Contest Re-Cap March 2020 at the Smoke Stack Hobbies, Lancaster

We're headin' in to spring with a full head of steam and a high green! The turnout of models and photos continue to be excellent, and some nice stuff too! There's a lot of good modeling going on in Division 6. AP Chairman Briggs should be getting some requests for Merit Judging from a number of you. Especially based on what I've seen these first three meetings! .

Congratulations to our winners. We will have certificates for you at our April meeting on the 19th at the Zane Trace Model RR Club, Zanesville. Our subject for the April contests is Line-Side Railroad Structures. Essentially, things like: Switch Towers, Water Tanks, Engine Houses, Stations, Etc. If you have any question on what constitutes a line side RR structure, contact the Contest Chairman. Reminder that photos should be your own work and printed on good quality photo paper.

The cumulative point totals for Modeler and Photographer of the Year appears elsewhere in the *Super's Signal*. Also please make note that for our June meeting in Marion, the contest subject will be favorite train for both model and photo.

Direct any questions to:
Contest Chairman, Jim Ruisinger.

Subject: Diesels/Electrics/Gas Electrics, basically not steam!

Model:

1st Place: Jerry Hurt, Caterpillar 2-axle Diesel Switcher

2nd Place: Steve Hurt, Ex Utah Belt SD-50

3rd Place: Howdy Lamprecht, Olive Grove Lumber Co., Box Cab #7

Photo:

1st Place: Jerry Hurt, GTW units in Jackson, Mississippi

2nd Place: Don Wilke, N.S. Units on viaduct in Cleveland

3rd Place: Matt Goodman, UP #7489 in Green River, Utah



1st Place Photo – Jerry Hurt
GTW units in Jackson, Mississippi



1st Place Model – Jerry Hurt
Caterpillar 2-axle Diesel Switcher

Membership End of the Month Report February 2020

Matt Goodman, Membership Chair

Summary/Comments

I'm writing this close to the Ides of March, just a few days after our meeting at the Smoke Stack Hobby Shop. We had a great turnout there – 36 people made the trip. This comes on the heels of another great turnout (35) the previous month at the Southeast Branch of the Library.

What caused over 20% of our membership to come to these meetings? Maybe it's the location. Both have historically had a great turnout. Smoke Stack has averaged just over 35 people over the past three meetings ('17, '18 and last month). The Southeast Branch Library has averaged 31, also over three meetings. Maybe it's the season – people are itching to get out? Maybe. Yet both of those

locations had their highest turnout over those three years this year.

Putting on my Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee hat, I'd like to think the growing robustness of the program has something to do with it. In fact, one member recently mentioned to me that the last two meetings have had "outstanding" clinics. Great feedback. Now we have to find a way to keep it up so that more (and more) of you feel the same way and start telling (and bringing) your friends!

Be part of this! Do you have a great clinic idea? An idea for a cool article? Let us know!

Active Members (end of the month):

February '20	168	February '19	181
January '20	168	January '19	179
December '19	165	December '18	176
November '19	169	November '18	173

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 **sixteen** memberships expiring in February, March, and April.

New Members, Renewals and Re-Rails (returning lapsed members)

Nine members renewed in February and one re-railed. Send your checks in!.

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



*Don't Just Belong,
Participate!!*

Track Gauges

Matt Goodman
Photos by Matt Goodman

There are several places on my layout where I needed, or will need, curved turnouts to gain extra room for the industries in Circleville. When building these, my collection of track gauges has exploded. I've developed some hands-on experience about what works well for me.

I use all but my NMRA track gauges both to *check* gauge and to hold the rail in place as I'm attaching the rail to the ties. For this use case, I have found I need a gauge to have, at the least, the following attributes.

- They should be self-aligning. A self-aligning gauge always crosses the track centerline at 90 degrees. Three-point gauges naturally do this, as do the deeply-cut rolling gauges that I use. For comparison, the NMRA gauge, being a two-point gauge, does not do this automatically.
- Secure hold on the rail so that as I'm moving components around, the gauge doesn't pop off.
- Some mechanical strength so that I can bend rail upstream or downstream of the gauge without worrying about damaging the rail-holding "lugs" of the gauge.

Micro-Engineering sells a line of three-point track gauges that work well. They come in a variety of scales and rail code. I have eight total. One pair for code 55, the rest evenly split between Code 70 and Code 83, which are interchangeable for my purposes. Realistically, you need at least three gauges to work effectively.

A quick note about track codes. I exclusively use Micro Engineering rail for hand-laying projects. In the case of this particular manufacturer, I use Code 83 gauges on Code 70 rail. And vice-versa because the width of the railhead is the same for both. I do not know if this is the case for other rail brands.

The Micro Engineering gauges are bare-bones, reliable and inexpensive – about \$6.00. They work perfectly on straight track and curved track. They do have some limitations when building turnouts. Specifically when I work around the frog. At that point, the extra width where the straight and diverging rails join prevents the gauge's "fingers" from dropping over the rail. Those same fingers are also too thick to fit between the wing or guard rails and the adjacent running/point rail. This means there is a 2 to 3-inch stretch where I can't use the gauges. Generally, this isn't a problem when fitting rail. Gauges placed upstream and downstream of this no-go zone is usually enough to keep the rail in place. But not always.

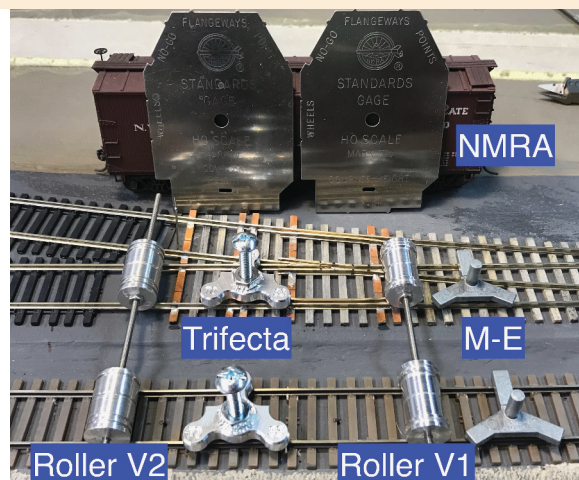
Besides the inability to work around the frog, Micro Engineering gauges have the three attributes that I need. Though they can be a bit weak on the "secure hold" point – they are the most likely to pop off while manipulating rail.

Trifecta gauges are a new addition for me, but I haven't yet used them much. It's fair to think of them as a "premium" three-point gauge. They have several extra features that are worthwhile.

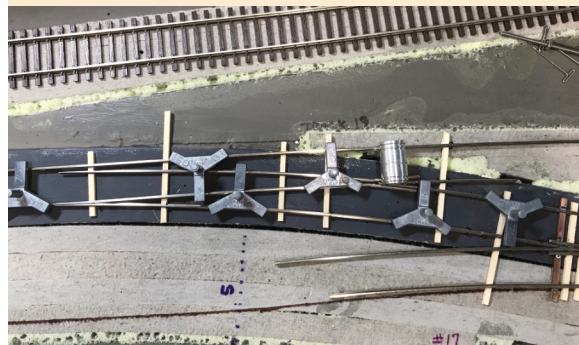
Most important to me is the gauge's rail lugs are machined to NMRA flangeway width. This means I can use them in guard-rail and wing-rail areas that the Micro-Engineering gauges can't. While I can't use them directly around the frog point, it does reduce the un-usable area to about an inch or less.

Track Gauges

Continued on page 9.



A sample of gauges that I use when building turnouts



Typical gauge usage when fitting up a turnout, prior to soldering/spiking



Trifectas are works of art. This photo shows the well-engineered rail lugs on the left (bottom view). Their interior is curved to accommodate curved track and milled to the NMRA flangeway clearance. They have a centerline indicator, removable handle, and engraved scale/code are also visible.

Continued: **Track Gauges**

Another feature that sold me is that the “handle” is removable. It makes it much easier to put a weight on the gauge, if necessary. The handle’s hole is threaded for 8-32 screws. I currently have normal galvanized 1-inch screw mounted.

Trifectas are beautifully milled from aluminum. They are of a harder metal than the cast Micro-Engineering gauges (longer wear?) The shape of the body of the gauge indicates the track centerline. In my limited use, they are more secure on the rail than Micro-Engineering gauges, without being tight. Trifectas are about \$10, direct from Fast Tracks.

Jason Reis’ Rolling Gauges are made on demand by a friend in Iowa who includes machining as one of his many hobbies. He started cutting these rolling track gauges about six years ago on his home lathe. He initially offered them to a small community that we both belonged to. I have had mine since that time and find them really nice.

While they are technically a two-point gauge, the slots for the rail are deep enough that they self-align fine. They also satisfy my other key attributes fine. I use these gauges extensively when building turnouts. Enough so I bought a second set about a year and a half ago.

The gauges are available in two profiles. One profile has four slots cut in the roller. The two outside slots locate the running rails, and the two inside slots to locate guard rails. The running and guard rail slots spaced to NMRA dimensions. The roller can hold a guard rail positively in place while soldering or spiking it. That’s nice and means I spend less time doing the fitting/checking/adjusting dance.

The cut on the second profile allows working directly at the frog point. These are the only gauge (besides the NMRA gauge) that I own that can do this. This feature allows me to fit the frog point perfectly relative to the running rails. It is what makes them most useful to me. This profile is hard to describe in text, but I’ll try – please refer to the photos as well. The roller has three slots cut like the first profile. The fourth slot is there, but cut away on its outside edge, giving it an “L” shape instead of a “U” shape. The open half of this slot allows the roller to ride on the frog point, while the closed half still allows the positive placement of the adjacent wing rail.

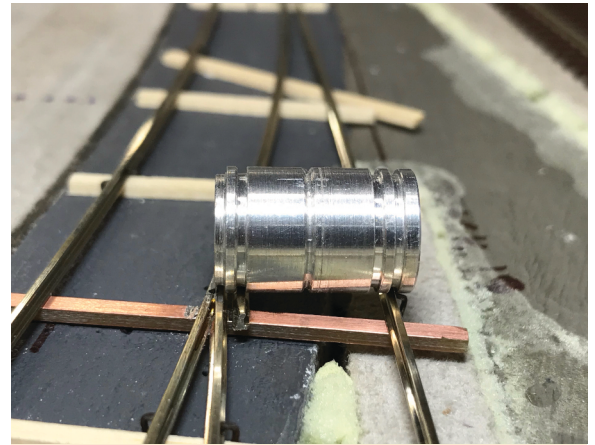
Other features include groove cut in the middle of the roller to indicate track centerline, a relieved center section to clear the closure rail when checking gauge between the switch points and frog point, and a threaded rod that joins the two rollers to set the two rollers at your preferred track-to-track spacing. No more checking your double track spacing with a ruler!

All is not perfect in paradise though. Since these rollers self-align via a long interface with the rail, these gauges don’t work as well on curved track. Especially if the wing rail is already in place – they are too tight. For my workflow on curved turnouts, I can locate the frog point relative to the opposite rail, but it might not be possible to locate the wing and guard rails.

Jason Reis’s rolling track gauges are custom made to order and are about \$30.00.

NMRA Gauge. And of course, any track-builder will become good friends with their NMRA gauge. I’ve learned a lesson the hard way each time I haven’t checked a particular clearance, whether out of ignorance or thinking I knew better. Most recently, I set several switch point clearances by eye. All but one worked fine. On that final one, one particular wheelset on one particular car picked the point with its wheel when following the diverging route. The offending wheelset is in gauge, but on a tiny bit on the tight side. The switch point gap is maybe a thousandth too tight. Put the two together, and you’re on the ground!

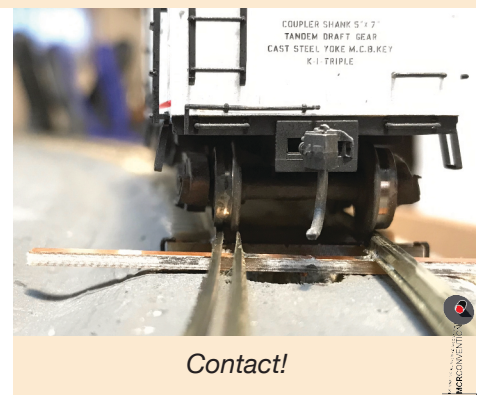
Live and learn...



This photo shows the cut-away slot (on the left end) described in the text that allows the gauge to work on the frog point. The next slot is positively holding the wing rail in place, relative to the frog point and opposite stock rail (on the right)



The relieved center of the rollers let it span diverging rails in a turnout. The threaded rod and lock nuts set track-to-track distance. Remove the rod from the rollers for flexibility



Contact!

What Is Operations?

Mike Wolf, MMR, Clinic Coordinator

Model railroading means different things to different people. Some folks like building highly detailed locomotives, cars, or buildings. They use information based on research and historical pictures or drawings. Some like doing scenery and just want trains to run past it. Some enjoying electronics and tinkering with mechanical things. Others enjoy seeing the joy and fascination in the eyes of guests and grandkids as trains roll by. Similarly, operations means different things to each individual. Some enjoy the challenges of coordinating complex scheduling and smoothly moving trains from point A to point B. Some love switching puzzles. Some like matching historical timetables or prototype-based operational control and signaling to their layout. I've even met a couple of sadistic people who enjoy filling out complex paperwork. And actually "working" for 3-4 hours trying to make sense of it all. As with most things, the phrase "It's your railroad, do what you enjoy" comes to mind. This applies to operations. The only caveat is that if you enjoy operating with others. You'll need to find some likeminded friends to play trains with. Someone who doesn't enjoy switching puzzles probably isn't going to come back next month if your trackwork and operating paperwork stump them.

So what is operations? In broad terms, it's a systematic movement of locomotives and cars from point A to point B. Additionally, with an underlying reason rail cars are being moved. The means and scale of these movements can be vastly different. It depends on the size and scope of your railroad, the era you are modeling and most of all, YOUR idea of fun. After all, model railroading is supposed to be fun isn't it?

To qualify for the Chief Dispatcher AP certificate, you must log at least 50 hours "operating" a layout in a variety of different roles. That may seem like a lot but with an ops session lasting 3-4 hours, you can achieve 50 hours relatively quickly. Regional and National Conventions almost always have operating sessions. They are usually sponsored by the Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG). During the Cleveland Convention, I spent four nights in a basement somewhere in Northern Ohio. All were different in size and scope and all were fun. Similarly, two years ago during the Regional Convention in Cincinnati, I had the opportunity to operate on three extremely different layouts in SW Ohio. Every other year, that same part of the state puts on the Southwest Ohio Operations (SWOOPS) weekend. It operates with 10 layouts or more hosting sessions Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday. The crowd includes both long time ops veterans and relative newbies. I haven't seen anyone leave not smiling. The options are out there, but you do need to sign up early to get a slot. Most layout owners know what the capacity of their basement is. They limit the number of slots so everyone has a job and isn't standing around waiting to run a train.

So, if you're interested in learning more about the basics of Operations, join us at the April Division Meeting for my clinic. For those unable to make it, look for part 2 of this article next month. I'll discuss some of the basics of what Operations entails and how to design or reconfigure your layout to enhance operations.



April Clinic Preview

Mike Wolf, MMR, Clinic Coordinator

Join us in March for a clinic on developing operating sessions for your railroad. I'll discuss layout design, different operating concepts, operational control, and various forms of car forwarding. I adapted the clinic from an EduTrain clinic from the NMRA website. There will be plenty of local area examples as well as my experiences operating locally and at various regional and national conventions.

We have an exciting line up of clinics for our full day mini-convention at Marion in June. Topics include the East Broad Top Railroad, superdetailing a locomotive, and weathering. I'm still in search of clinicians to fill out the rest of the calendar year so drop me a note at wvunion@gmail.com



Division 6 Email Group:
NMRA Buckeye Division@groups.io

Division 6 on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:
NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]

TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 30TH YEAR



SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Holy Family Parish Saffin Center
3938 POPLAR LEVEL RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40213

- Model Trains in All Scales
- Operating Layouts and Displays
- Retail Sales
- Information Stations
- Hourly Door Prizes!
- Great Food & Beverages
- FREE Parking

ADMISSION

\$6.00 Per Person – Children 12 and under free with an adult

NMRA members can enter the show at 9:00 AM
with your current membership card in hand

Dealer Tables available - \$30 per table

Sponsored by Division 8 - Mid Central Region - NMRA

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

Website: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>

Facebook: @Division8.MCR.NMRA

28th Midwest Scale Train Show

NEW DATE:

MARCH 27 & 28 ~~March 20-21~~, 2020

Manufacturers, Clinics, Operating Layouts, Model Contest

All Scales and Gauges Welcome: N scale to 7/8" scale

Operating Layouts and Modules:

Large Scale Display

Desk Top Layouts

New for 2020:

N Scale T Trak

Battery and Remote Control Demos

by Berrett Hill Trains and the On30guy

Live from Boston, Massachusetts, Alan Carroll
will do demos all day Friday and Saturday on
how to rework plastic locomotives

CLINICS

by top area and
regional modelers
all day Friday and
Saturday

Top area
and regional
manufacturers and vendors

Only at:

SALEM CENTERPLEX

1098 N. Ellsworth Ave., Salem, OH 44460

www.salemcommunitycenter.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Salem-Community-Centerplex/833500220089734>

<http://www.portlandlocomotiveworks.com/events/28th-annual-midwest-narrow-gauge-show/>

Food by Linda's Home Cooking



SHOW TIMES

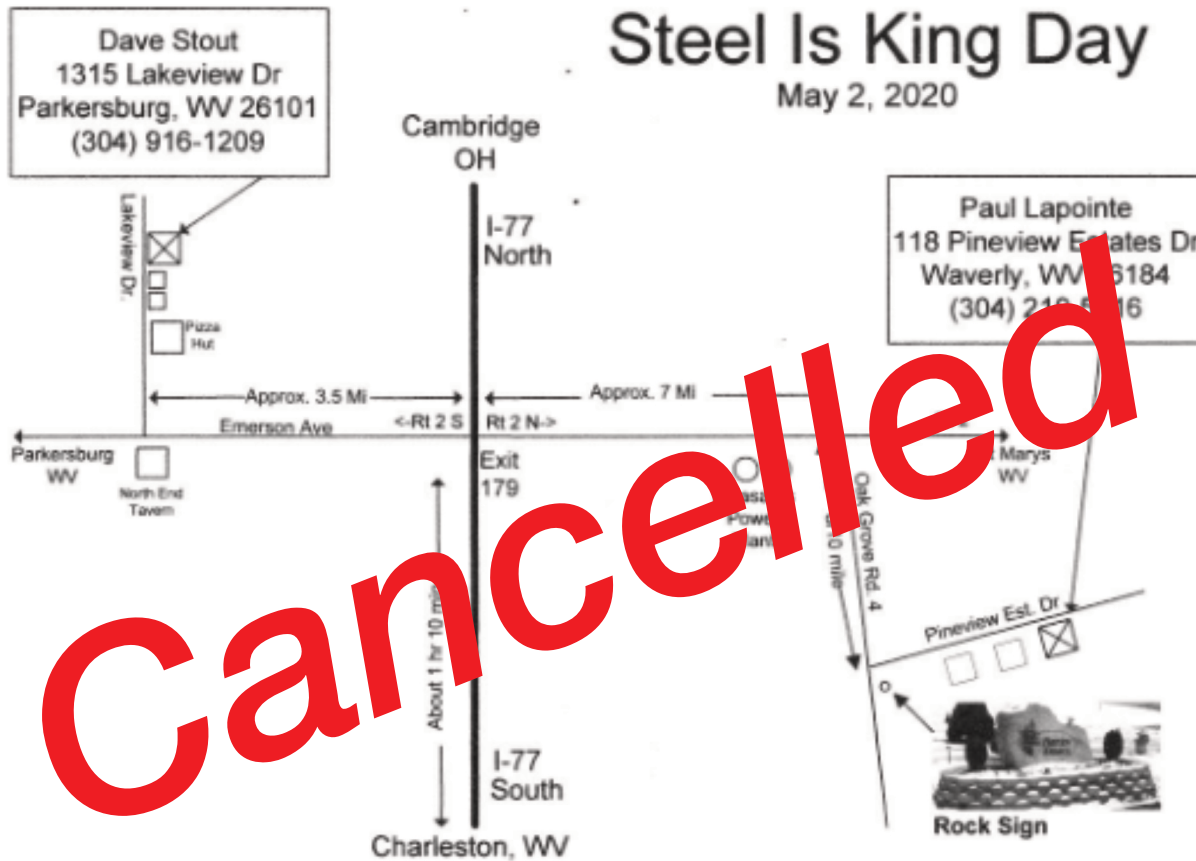
Friday: 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Gary Kohler, P.O. Box 133, Washingtonville, OH 44490-0133

330-719-0264 m2fq@aol.com



STEEL IS KING DAY

There's plenty of steel mill action in Parkersburg on May 2nd, 2020 on Dave Stout and Paul Lapointe's layouts.

Both Dave and Paul will have their steel mill layouts open at 9:00 AM for your inspection. Dave is at 1315 Lakeview Drive in Parkersburg. Paul is at 118 Pineview Estates Dr. in Waverly. Both will have NMRA layout tour signs leading to their houses.

Paul will close his layout around noon as everyone will gather at Dave's house for lunch followed by the Division 9 business meeting at 1 PM. The contest will be any steel related model of any kind.

To Paul's layout: Starting at I-77 interchange, go north on Rt 2 toward St. Marys. After about 7 miles, you'll pass the town of Waverly, then cross into Pleasants County, and pass the Pleasants Energy Power plant on the right. Take your next right which will be Oak Grove Road County Road 4. Drive up 8/10 of a mile, and you'll see a large painted rock on a brick pedestal with Pineview Estates painted on it. Take the sharp left at the rock, and the 3rd house on the right, a grey ranch style. Go in the front door and straight ahead down the basement to the layout. To avoid stairs, walk around to the back door.

To Dave's layout: Starting at the I-77 interchange, go south on Emerson Ave. toward Parkersburg. After about 3 1/2 miles you'll see the North End Tavern on the left and Lakeview Dr. is directly opposite on the right. Dave's is the 3rd house on the right after the Pizza Hut. Go past the side of the house to the back yard.

Dave suggests you bring a lawn chair, if you have one, seating for lunch might be tight.

Dave and Paul look forward to seeing you on the 2nd!

Paul's layout from 9am-noon, 3-5pm
Dave's layout 9am-5pm





Marriott East, 7202E 21st St
Indianapolis, IN 46219



Four Full Days
Three Regions
One Convention
May 18–21, 2022

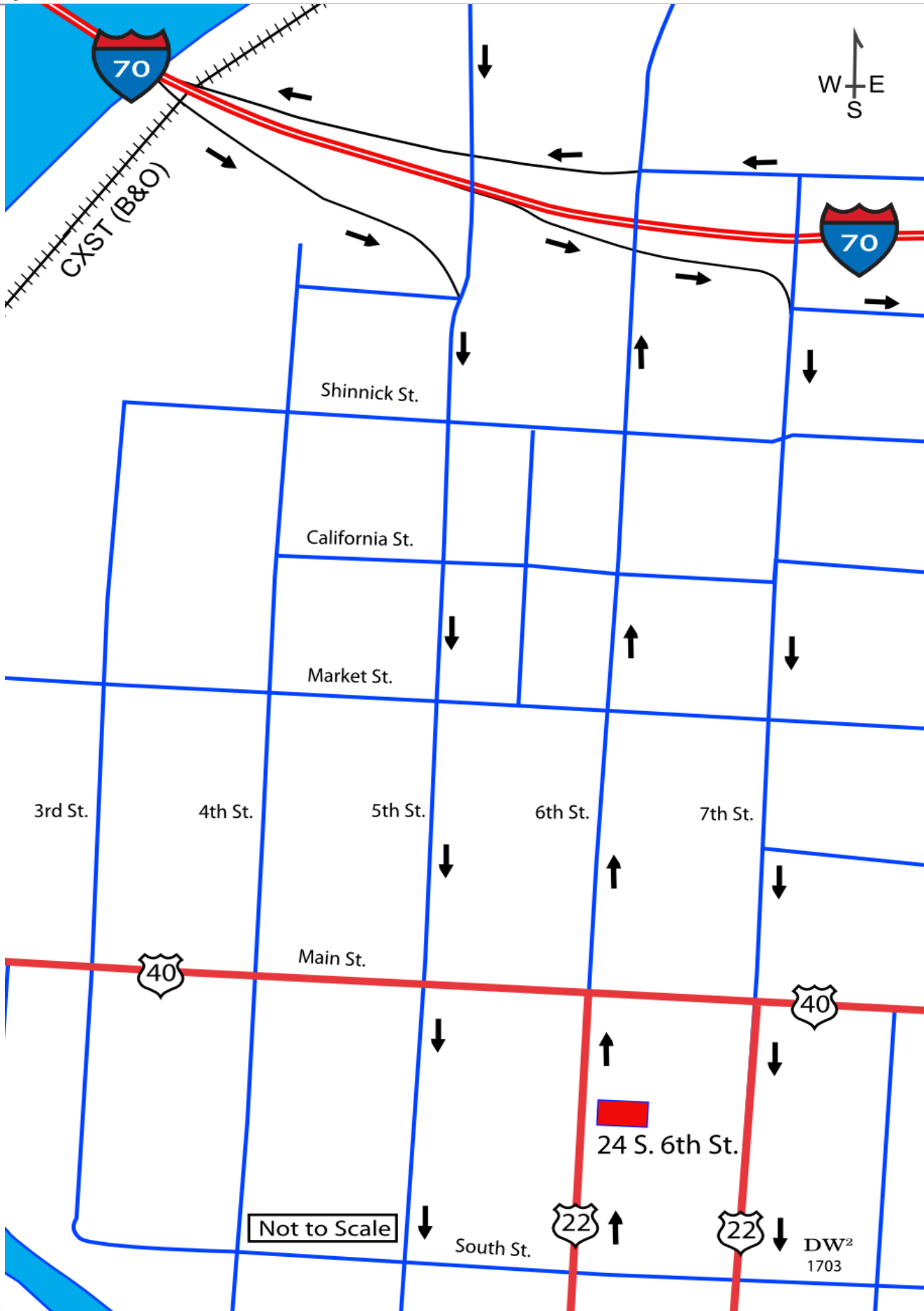


Clinics
Layout Tours
Ops Sessions
Prototype Tours



www.IndyJunction2022.org





The Mini Bunch

Harry "Butch" Sage

Fishing Where the Fish Are Biting

Mike Wolf, MRR, Membership and Retention Committee

New Email Group for Division 6 Members

Jim Ruisinger and Butch Sage



The *Northern Express*: MCR Regional Convention 2021

Save the Dates: May 20-23, 2021



The Ambassador Center:

I-90 Exit 24 – 7794 Peach Street, Erie, Pennsylvania

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinics | <input type="checkbox"/> Prototype and Industrial Tours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contests | <input type="checkbox"/> General Interest Tours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroads on Display | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-rail Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ops-Sessions | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Model Railroad Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Night Banquet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Company Store and White Elephant Sale | |



Age of Steam / Dennison Deport Bus Tour

Darrell Logan

Book Review Model Railroading as Art

Matt Goodman

Calling all Clinicians!

Mike Wolf, MRR

Tool Tip - Mixing and Storing Small Paint Quantities

Matt Goodman

February Clinic Preview

Election of Division 6 Officers

Jim Ruisinger

Division 6 Email Group:
NMRABuckeyeDivision@groups.io

Division 6 on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:
NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]

2020 Election of Division 6 Officers Ballot

Harry Sage

Division 6 Officer Candidates

Superintendent

☐ Matt Goodman

Assistant Superintendent

☐ Dexter Hill

Clerk

☐ Carter Jastram

Master

☐ Jim Borcz

VOID

Please vote for no more than one of the listed candidates for each office. All Division 6 Officers will serve for a two-year term starting at the Mid Central Region Convention.

Every voting member of Division 6 should receive this copy of *The Super's Signal*. Some households will receive more than one copy of *The Super's Signal*, one for each voting member.

The Officer Election Ballots must be handed to Harry Sage, Inspector of Elections, by the 8th of March at the Lancaster meeting or postmarked by the 1st of March and mail to:

Division 6 Inspector of Elections
c/o Harry Sage
2756 Counhty Line Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

The only Official Division 6 Election Ballot is printed in the MAILED copy of the *Super's Signal* and MUST have your address on the reverse side when it is submitted it.

Division 6 Mailing List Update

Membership and Retention Committee

Past issues of the *Super's Signal* are available online at: <https://archive.div6-mcr-nmra.org/Signal.html>

The Division 6 *Super's Signal* is published ten times a year on the internet at the above address. Printed and mailed copies of the *Super's Signal* became too expensive to publish each issue. We haven't mailed copies for a few years. It was decided to print and mail this copy of the *Super's Signal* to each division member to allow you to update your postal address and/or e-mail address, and to allow you to vote for the division members running to Division 6 Officer. No write-in candidates are allowed by state law.

To update your mailing address, enclose the following information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

To updae your email address, enclose the following information.

Email: _____

You can either send Matt Goodman, Division 6 Membership Chair, the information by a postal mail or by an email.

Either mail the information to:

Division 6 Membership Chair
c/o Matt Goodman
130 South Algonquin Ave
Columbus Ohio 43204

Or E-Mail the information to:

MembershipChair@div6-mcr-nmra.org