

Super's Signal

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

September 2020

Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Super

In my last Super's Report, I listed my top two priorities as Superintendent: Continuity and Website Modernization. I may have listed two, but a longer list of items is waiting to move up to prime time as these first two get rolling.

First, a quick update on those first two. For Continuity I mentioned in the last report we would like a backup person for each position. We have several of the lead positions covered – specifically Membership, Contest, and Website. The pickle is that in several cases, the backup also has a separate primary position. Volunteering takes time, and double-booking any one person is not a good strategy. We need help for the backup position. Contact me to help.

About Website Modernization, I have divided the work into two initial phases. The first phase is the one I mentioned last month. Getting a second person trained on doing basic website maintenance; i.e., updates, paying the bills, etc. This is mostly done. The second phase is about gathering information from our members about our website. Things the members like or don't like about our website, things you like about other websites you frequent, and things you'd like our website to do that it currently doesn't. Something like a focus group that may develop into a committee. Interested? Contact me or Don to sign up.

My third priority (wake up, this is new!) is to look into Electronic Payments for the division. This consists of taking payments via credit card or Google/Apple Pay apps. The initial goal is to learn terminology, who the players are, how these types of transactions

Super's Signal Deadline
17 September

13 September Division Meeting by Zoom Video Call

1:00: Zoom Room opens or social half-hour

1:30: Business Meeting starts

2:30: (estimate) Clinic: *Intro to 3D Printers*, William Morgan

Virtual Photo Contest #5: Steam Locomotives

Watch your email, or the Web Site for details, or contact Matt at Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

function, cost, and needed hardware, etc. We've made initial progress on this. Paymaster Borcz has done a great job gathering a list of vendors, and their pricing. The BOD will consider the options at some point in the future. We still have a couple of questions to answer before we look into whether (or not) using a service like this benefits the division. If you have questions or input on this, contact me or Paumaster Jim Borcz.

In other topics, the Board recently voted to extend our month-to-month Zoom license to an annual license. This is 30% less expensive on a monthly basis and, more importantly, there are a lot of potential uses that we aren't yet taking advantage of – including after we get back to in-person meetings. Look for things like shorter, less formal ad-hoc meetings in the future. We will also be looking into ways that individual

members can use the service to have get or give demonstrations on a particular problem. Do you have questions or ideas? Contact me or Membership Chair Rick Brown.

Speaking of Zoom, I'm writing two days after our

The Super's Report
Continued on page 4.

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS**Division 6 Superintendent**

Matt Goodman: 30 S. Algonquin Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43204

Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Assistant Superintendent

Dexter Hill:

AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Clerk

Carter Jastram:

DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Pay Master

Jim Borcz:

Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Directors

Dick Briggs, MMR

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf, MMR:

Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Appointed Division 6 Chairs

A list of Division 6 Chairs can be found at:

[https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/](https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/Officers_Page.html)

[Officers Page.html](https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/Officers_Page.html)

Web Master: Don Wilke

Web_Master@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Super's Signal Pub.: Don 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
Buckeye Division 6,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Virtual Division Meeting
9 August 2020
Carter Jastram, Clerk

Call to order

The Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Matt Goodman, Division 6 Superintendent, at 1:30 p.m.

Division 6 Officers Present:

Superintendent

Matt Goodman

Assistant Superintendent

Dexter Hill

Clerk

Carter Jastram

Paymaster

Jim Borcz

Director

Dick Briggs, MMR

Director

Don Wilke

Director

Mike Wolf, MMR

Division 6 Chairpersons Present:

Achievement Program

Dick Briggs, MMR

Company Store

Greg Short

Contest

Jim Ruisinger

Groups.io

Jim Ruisinger

Inspector of Elections

Harry "Butch" Sage

Media

Matt Goodman

Membership

Rick Brown

Programs

Dexter Hill / Mike Wolf, MMR

Raffle

Harry "Butch" Sage

Super's Signal Publisher

Don Wilke

Train Show

Greg Short

Web Master

Don Wilke

Absent:

Membership Retention

Bruce McDonald

Welcome Guests and New Members:

We welcome several from outside Division 6 to our screens today! And see the Membership Report below.

Announcements – Matt:

1. The postcards announcing this month's meeting included the Zoom meeting link.
2. The MailChimp email list contains about 70-80% of the membership; Groups.io contains about 50%.
3. Zoom etiquette was reviewed.
4. Matt continues to focus on establishing continuity, so that each position has a backup in case a sub is needed. He is looking for people interested in learning more about various leadership positions via shadowing. This will also help the division develop some bench strength.
5. Website modernization. We are still in Phase I (Don

The Clerk's Report
Continued on page 3.

and Matt are working together). Phase II involves getting feedback on what division members want or expect from our website. Web experts are welcome, but Matt also wants non-experts to provide feedback. Contact Matt or Don if you are interested.

6. *An article in the latest *NMRA Magazine* has good ideas for recruiting and retaining members, some of which we are already implementing. See the August, 2020, issue, *News You Can Use!: How to Boost Division Retention and Recruitment*, pages 36-37. Also, every month read the *Division Business Car* for other kinds of ideas we might use. In the current issue, see pages 38, 40-41.

Reports:

Clerk's Report: Carter Jastram. The Clerk's Report for 20 June 2020, as it appears in the August *Super's Signal*, Pages 2-3, was accepted.

Paymaster's Report: Jim Borcz. The Financial Report for July 31 was approved, pending audit.

Programs Reports: Watch for finalized schedules to be published in the *Super's Signal* and announced at meetings.

Locations: Dexter Hill. September's meeting will be virtual; see more under New Business, Item # 2. October and November's meetings are also going to be virtual, and Matt approved the dates of October 11 and November 8. For December, Dexter will contact the Upper Arlington Library to determine availability. If we can meet in person, the meeting may be a show-and-tell or a video/slide show. Whether on the 6th or the 13th is still TBD.

Clinics: Mike Wolf. September: Bill Morgan will present *An Introduction to 3D Printing*. ~~We may have a clinic from a Division 9 member, if the meeting is held jointly.~~ October 11: A series of mini clinics on techniques. ~~October 18: Train Show - maybe.~~ November 8: Rich Matejovic on *DCC++*. There are three clinics already on deck for 2021.

Achievement Report: Dick Briggs. Dick has an Electrical Engineer report from Dexter to review; nothing else so far.

Super's Signal Report: Don Wilke. There are about 100 past issues of the *Super's Signal*, dating back to 1994, now archived on the website. Articles for the next issue of the *Signal* are due this Thursday, August 13.

Webmaster's Report: Don Wilke. Don is investigating information about Trillo.

Media/Communications Reports:

Groups.io: Jim Ruisinger. About 70 members are on the NMRA Buckeye Division 6 group; a few dropped off due to receiving an email every time someone posted a comment, but that can be adjusted. It's a great way to be able to communicate with everyone in the division.

Facebook: Rick Brown. We have a Facebook page, not a group, but will look into creating such if there is much interest. It is preferable to have only one group account (currently groups.io) for members to join.

MailChimp: See Announcements # 2 above.

Membership: Rick Brown. Membership is stable at 166, but 33 are due to expire between now and October 31.

We welcome two new members to the Division:

David Hiatt of Hebron, a retired shop teacher and former Army Signal Corps.

Bill Williams near Lexington in the Mansfield area, and a member of the Mount Vernon Club.

The family of a deceased MCR member is inquiring whether anyone is interested in the large collection of railroad magazines from 1977 onward. The model trains are being auctioned on line; send an email to Rick Brown requesting the link to the website, and it will also be published in the next *Super's Signal*.

Company Store (Model Projects): Greg Short. No new information was provided.

~~**Train Show:** Mike Wolf. Scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Prichart Center says yes, but that may change. Mike will be distributing flyers and discount coupons in NE Ohio soon. Contact information for vendors is at the bottom of the flyers. A survey was posted on our Zoom screens for immediate feedback.~~

Old Business:

None.

Other Business:

Division 9 Joint Meeting: Dexter heard from Division 9 that they would be doing a virtual meeting this year, and that a joint meeting is still possible. The question was raised of adding a second clinic, which might be a virtual tour of Mark's layout. Dexter moved that the joint meeting be held virtually; Carter seconded. An amendment was made that our two divisions hold their business meetings separately via Zoom Rooms, and come together afterwards for a joint meeting; Carter seconded. Amendment and original motion were passed; Dexter will contact Division 9 to discuss this further. [Joint Meeting is cancelled. We will have a vertial meeting. - Ed.]

Club Reports:

The Hocking Valley Model Railroad Club has no definite plans to reopen.

The Mini-Bunch meeting scheduled for Sept. 26 has been canceled.

The Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers Club (neols.net) in Medina has some meets scheduled for September and October.

No other club reports were provided.

The Clerk's Report
Continued on page 4.

Continued: **Clerk's Report****Contest:**

Jim Ruisinger reported the results of our latest contest on the theme of derelicts. There were 14 really interesting photos to choose from, which resulted in 3-way ties for first and third places! Please see Jim's report elsewhere in this issue of the *Super's Signal*. The photos remain available to view on the Division 6 website. Let's keep those entries coming!

Our next contest theme is steam locomotives, real or model. Watch for announcements of submission and due dates.

Jim also announced the current scores toward Photographer of the Year: Matt and Don tied at 14 each, Butch with 9, Rich Matejovic at 7, and so on.

Good of the Order:

Next Division Meeting: Mike suggested September 13

Continued: **The Super's Report**

August division meeting. The attendance fluctuated throughout the meeting but got as high as 36 (we'll call it 32) – a 50+% increase over the last meeting. We also had several folks joining from other divisions to see how well we run our meetings (that's my story, and I'm sticking to it...). Some of those exotic attendees no doubt came to see Butch Sage's talk on the East Broad Top Railroad. Butch's presentation covered the railroad's history and operations. He even had several news slides covering the recent news about the railroad's acquisition and already in-progress restoration!

You can watch the clinic at the following link – enter (or copy/paste) the password when prompted.

(after Labor Day weekend), ~~but that also depends on Division 9, if our meeting is held jointly.~~

Clinic:

Butch Sage presented a very interesting and thorough clinic on the *East Broad Top Railroad*, its past, present, and hopes for the future. The clinic was recorded, lasted about 42 minutes and followed by a Q&A of about 6 minutes. Websites of interest: eastbroadtop.com; febt.org and rockhilltrolley.org.

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

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m. by motion by Bob Lee, seconded by Rick Brown.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4ctQCIRy5yRIRaeO9G3RebACDtlT6a803MWrdemUkUrS76lqa48GRc2CmciiF5>

Password: **H.?X7C.E**

On the personal front, I made some track-laying progress through Circleville in the past two weeks. I now have enough track to switch two sidings on the "Old Main". And I've developed a new-to-me method change the spacing on Central Valley Tie Strips to better match a secondary line usage.

Time to drop the fire!

**September Virtual Clinic**

Mike Wolf, MRR

Join us for the September Virtual meeting with Bill Morgan as our featured clinician. Bill will be discussing the pros and cons of the various 3D printers available, the types of materials they can print, and lessons he has learned using this new "tool" in his hobby toolkit. He'll also have examples of the items he has printed.

Division 6 on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:

NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]

Division 6 – 2020 Time Table

Date	Event	Meeting	City
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
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 Virtual Contest #1: Line-Side Railroad Structure	Zanesville
23 Apr	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
17 May	Virtual Photo Voting	Virtual Contest #2: Signals	.io-group
23 May	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
28–31 May	MMR Convention	<i>The Steel City Express</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa
20 Jun (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Zoom Clinic: <i>Getting Started (or Improving) Operations on Your Layout</i> , Mike Wolf, MMR Virtual Photo Contest #3: Favorite Train	.io-group
25 Jun	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
8 Aug (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Marion Union Station</i> Clinic: <i>East Broad Top Railroad</i> , Butch Sage; <i>DCC++</i> , Richard Matejovic; <i>Weathering Techniques</i> , Steve Hurt Contest: Railroad Derelicts / Wrecks	Marion
9 Aug	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: Zoom Clinic: <i>East Broad Top Railroad</i> , Butch Sage Virtual Photo Contest #4: Railroad Derelicts / Wrecks	Zoom
13 Sep	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: Zoom Clinic: <i>Introduction to 3D Printers</i> , William Morgan Virtual Photo Contest: Steam Locomotive	Zoom
17 Sep	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
11 Oct	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: Zoom Clinic: <i>Model Finishing Techniques Extravaganza</i> Virtual Photo Contest: TBD	Zoom
18 Oct	Division 6 Train Show	Business Meeting: NONE Clinic: NONE Contest: NONE	Cambridge
20 Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
8 Nov	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Clinic: <i>DCC++</i> , Richard Matejovic Contest: Closed Freight Car	TBD
12 Nov	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
6 Dec Tenative	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: TBD Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Contest: Passenger Car	Upper Arlington
10 Dec	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline	<i>Election Issue</i>	



Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

“Virtual” Contest-#4 Re-Cap August 2020 via the Internet

The cumulative point totals for Modeler and Photographer of the Year appears elsewhere in the *Super's Signal*.

Once again, we had some really cool photos entered in our contests. “Wrecks and Derelicts”. The winners were announced at our August “Zoom” meeting. There were 14 excellent photos submitted, some of them rather unusual and voting was very tight... In fact so tight, that we had a three way tie for first, a solid second place and a three way tie for third. Photos were put on special page of the division's website for everyone to vote on them. I would love to see more people vote in these contests.

Congratulations to our winners. We will have certificates for you at our next opportunity to hold a Division 6 meeting where we can gather, in person, and boy oh boy, I'm getting quite a stack of 'em too!

For our September 13th meeting, our photo contest subject will be Steam Locomotives. And remember our usual guidelines apply that the photo can be of either a model or the prototype and must have been taken by the member submitting. Photo submissions will be opened up on September 1 and close at 10pm September 11th. Voting will be on Saturday, September 12th and close at 6pm. The winners will be announced at our Zoom meeting on Sunday, the 13th. Email reminders will be sent out and it will be posted on the division's Facebook page.

Direct any questions to:

Contest Chairman, Jim Ruisinger.

(614) 440-8962 Jimbo2490@yahoo.com

Subject: Wrecks and Derelicts whether its model or prototype

Model: None

Photo:

1st Place (tie): Harry “Butch” Sage, *Pennsy Shark nose at Altoona, PA*

1st Place (tie): Jim Borcz, *Rusted out Shays at Cass, WV*

1st Place (tie): Mike Wolf, MMR. *Decaying buggies at Bristol, UK*

2nd Place: Richard Matejovic, *Goderich & Exeter GP in Ontario*

3rd Place (tie): Steve Hurt, *CR SDP45 headed for the boneyard*

3rd Place (tie): Steve Hurt, *It “was” a Frisco GP35*

3rd Place (tie): Don Wilke, *Swift Mechanical Reefer at Nelsonville*

Photographs of First Place winners are on page 7.

*Don't Just Belong,
Participate!!*

Contest Point Summary August 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	14	Rick Brown	3
Don Wilke	14	Bruce McDonald	2
Harry Sage	9	John Baker	1
Jim Borcz	7	(By way of Jack Brown)	
Howdy Lamprecht	7	Dick Briggs, MMR	1
Richard Matejovic	7	Peggy Doerflein	1
Dave Richter	6	Carter Jastram	1
Jim Ruisinger	6	Andrea McIntosh	1
Jerry Hurt	5	Jim Oberst	1
Mike Wolf, MMR	5	Jerry Severson	1
Steve Hurt	4	Greg Short	1

August 2020 First Place (Tie)

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair



1st Place Photo (Tie)
Jim Borcz, *Rusted out Shays at Cass, WV*



1st Place Photo (Tie)
Mike Wolf, MMR. *Decaying buggies at Bristol, UK*



1st Place Photo (Tie)
Harry "Butch" Sage, *Pennsy Shark nose at Altoona, PA*

The 40th National Narrow Gauge Convention

Harry "Butch" Sage

We are doing an online version of the St. Louis National Narrow Gauge Convention.

The cancellation of the 40th National Narrow Gauge Convention, although necessary, was a great disappointment to us all. We got to thinking wouldn't it be great to run a scaled-down version of the convention using the Zoom platform and do it about the same time as the original convention. So, we are organizing a virtual convention held on three consecutive Saturdays starting August 22nd.

The agenda each Saturday will be three clinics in the morning, a short break, and two layout tours in the

afternoon. The clinic and layout tours will run about 45 minutes each including Q & A. We have nine clinics and six layouts on the schedule. On September 5th, the last Saturday, we will conclude with presentations by the Hickory, North Carolina, Seattle, and Denver convention committees. The presentations by the committees bidding for 2024 and 2025 are next. Followed by a vote if necessary.

Complete details are on the 40th NNGC web page; www.40nngc.com.

So, spread the word and we'll see you online!

Mini Bunch Meeting Cancelled

Harry "Butch" Sage

Don't know if you heard or not. After surveying our membership, the Mini Bunch has cancelled the Fall Meet in Sugar Creek and Coshocton, which was scheduled for Sept. 26th.

Super's Signal

September 2020



Membership End of the Month Report

Rick Brown, Membership Chair

Summary/Comments

Thanks again to all who participated in the Zoom Division 6 Meeting on the 9th. Didn't Butch do a terrific job on the East Broad Top? That was first rate. I learned much more about EBT. I know that Mike Wolf has more great clinics planned. And, as a Membership support; if you would like to present a clinic but would like some assistance with Powerpoint presentations, I would be happy to help put your great topics into a real life format with pictures or video. Just ask!

One of the things we noticed in the past week, with all of the email notices that went out (we use a platform called Mailchimp to send emails) is that a couple of members were not receiving emails. One was a case where the email address in Mailchimp was an older address, and hadn't been updated. In the case of the other one...well, a life member of NMRA since 1981 was simply missing from that list. Fixing both of those issues is easy. But I have to find out about them. So, if you are reading this message, and you were not receiving emails about the survey that was sent out, or the Zoom meetings, please let me know. Easy to fix if I find out about it.

On that same topic, we only have about 90% of our membership rostered with any email address at all. That means you are missing out on terrific content from the Buckeye Division, and you are most certainly missing out

on some great stuff from the National organization. We can't communicate if we don't have a good pathway to your computer. Costs of mailing things are becoming more expensive and email is how we get the word out. Let us know how best we can connect with you!

New Members!

I am delighted to announce we have two new members that have joined us. Please welcome **David Hiatt** of Hebron, and **Bill Williams** of Lexington.

David is a retired shop teacher and retired Army Signal Corps. He is working on a sizeable home HO layout and is just starting to dip into DCC. He could probably use some tips on that!

Bill is a member of the Mt. Vernon Club, and is really enjoying the camaraderie there, and especially thankful for the members who are helping him work on his layout. Way to go Kokosing Valley Club!

Because we had a couple of new members join, and some members renew, our membership count is up to 166. But over the next 90 days, 33 of our loyal members' enrollment expires. Get those renewals in. If you have a question about yours, please call or email Membership Chair Rick Brown, or check your magazine label for your expiry date. Don't derail!



Active Members (end of the month):

July	166	July '19	165
June	163	June '19	175
May	163	May '19	176
April	165	April '19	175

Upcoming Expirations – Check your dates! Note: If you have questions about when your membership expires, check your magazine address label or contact Membership Chair Rick Brown.

We have **thirty three** expirations in the next 90 days.

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

I noted **two** new member that joined above. **David Hiatt** of Hebron and **Bill Williams** of Lexington.

Other Stuff

If you have changes to your address or membership information, please share it. Are you getting emails from the division? If not, we probably don't have an active email address for you.

Unsure when your membership expires? You can notify the National Headquarters, or inquire with Rick Brown.

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 6 Membership Chair

Email: MembershipChair@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Phone: 614-581-6552 (please leave a message)

Mail: Rick Brown
7274 Nightshade Drive
Westerville OH 43082



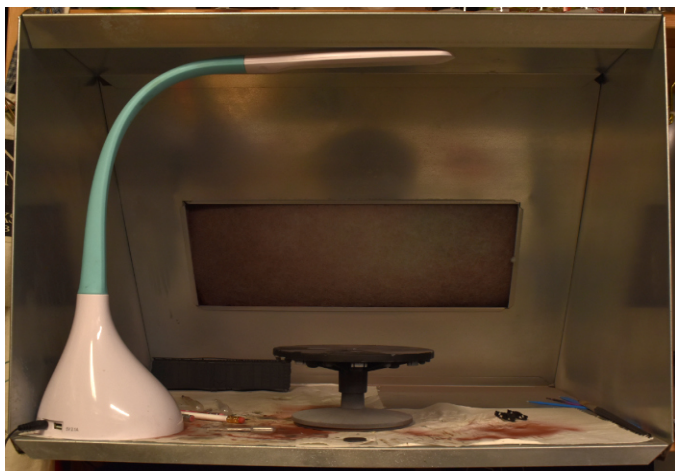
Another Use for LED Strips

Matt Goodman
Photos by Author

Introduction

Airbrush booths are hard to light well. They are open only on the front (by design) which prevents overhead light from shining down onto the subject.

To improve the situation in my booth, I initially removed the top panel and mounted trouble lights overhead. This approach worked. After reading that open tops interfere with efficient fume extraction, I put the panel back on. I then tried trouble lights over my shoulders (shadows). I followed by placing a task light in the booth (too dim and got in the way). Both solutions were unsatisfactory.



Booth with ambient lighting.

I then remembered a photo I saw a couple of years ago - a workbench light in the shape of an arch with an LED strip mounted to it. It spanned the entire work area and virtually eliminated shadows. A perfect solution to adapt to my booth.

Parts list:

- Arch: Aluminum bar – 1" x 1/8" x 4'
- Self-adhesive LED strip – 43" (3.6') for my application
- LED strip solderless connector (example here)
- 12v 2.5a Power Supply (wall-wart)
- 5.5mm barrel connector (optional)

I sourced the aluminum from Home Depot, used leftover LED strip and solderless connectors from a kitchen project, a 12 volt, 2.5 amp wall-wart power supply with a 5.5mm barrel connector from my parts box and purchased a female barrel connector from Micro Center.

Construction

Since a true arch would take up too much workspace, I bent the aluminum into upside-down "U" shape with rounded corners and left the legs slightly splayed so that they would spring solidly against the booth's sides. After

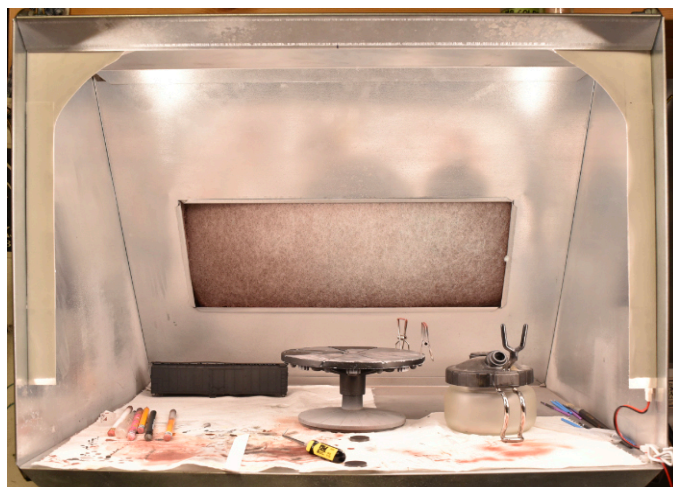


Aluminum arch.

checking the booth fit, I applied the LED strip, attached the solderless connector, and wired a female barrel connector inline to match a parts-box wall-wart power supply. The last step was fastening the arch in place with a single #6 screw and nut at the top-center. The spring tension of the splayed legs keeps the sides firmly in place.

Results

The result is large quantities of light (about 1400 lumens) and no shadowing. After initially mounting it, I found there was too much glare. The LED strips have a 120-degree spread, putting a lot of light outside the booth, and some of that in my eyes. I created a shade using heavy paper backed by foil. So far, I'm content with that solution – long term usage will determine if any further tweaks are needed.



Booth with improved lighting (same camera settings).

I've had mixed luck with the LED's staying put in the past, probably due to poor application technique. This time I sanded the aluminum with fine-grit sandpaper to remove oxidation and roughen up the surface. I followed by a wipe down with lacquer thinner. Once the strip is in place, go back over it slowly, applying substantial pressure to get the adhesive good and set.

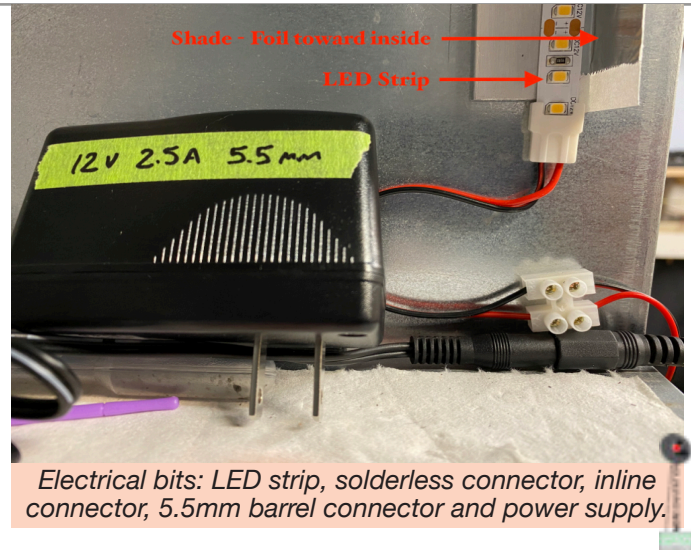
To properly size the power supply, you'll need to know how many amps

LED Strips
Continued on page 10.

Continued: **LED Strips**

your strip will draw. The voltage and power requirements (usually measured in Watts/foot) for your LED strip are on the packaging or spec sheet. Multiply the power requirement by the length of your strip and divide by the strip's voltage to get the amperage required. Using my application as an example:

- Strip spec: 12 Volts, 4.4 Watts per foot
- Strip length: 3.6' (43")
- $4.4 \text{ W/ft} \times 3.6 \text{ ft} = 15.8 \text{ watts} / 12 \text{ Volts} = 1.32 \text{ Amps}$
- With a safety factor of 50%, 2 amps required.



October Model Finishing EXTRAVAGANZA!

Sunday, October 11th

By Mike Wolf, Clinic Coordinator

With no meeting in October (due to the Train Show in Cambridge) what is a modeler to do? How about getting together virtually with other modelers to discuss painting, decaling, and weathering techniques? I'll admit, extravaganza may be a bit of a stretch, but it did get you to read at least this far.

So, here's the concept: Several folks take the lead in talking about painting, decaling, or a weathering technique, material or tools they've used. Others may jump in with questions, comments, or techniques of their own. Add a lot of experienced modelers, a couple of MMRs, and everyone is a winner!

While not an expert, I'm volunteering to take the lead on the decaling portion of the event. If you attended the clinic on adhesives I did a couple of years ago at Smoke Stack Hobbies, I'm planning on following a similar format. I'll throw out some of the techniques, materials, and tools I've used in the past to start the conversation and everyone else

can chime in with theirs.

Where can you help out? I'm looking for other conversation starters. Painting, airbrushing, weathering, etc. Cars or structures. Optimally, if someone can get the conversation started with painting, we'll move into decaling and finish with a sampling of very short, individual weathering techniques. For the weathering, just a couple before and after photos of your technique and maybe a slide showing the materials or tools you used. If you have got the video equipment and Zoom skills to try doing a live demo, we'll be here to help. Simply send me an email (wvunion@gmail.com) with a brief description of your technique(s) or area of discussion you would like to lead. My years in the military have also equipped me with the skills to someone to volunteer (VolunTold) so don't make me come looking for you!

Watch your email and the *Super's Signal* for more information and the Zoom link to join in the conversation.

Upcoming Election Information

Reported by Harry "Butch" Sage

Buckeye Division 6 Nominations Chair

In January 2021, division members will elect three people to serve a two-year term as Director. With nominations finalized at the November meeting. If any member would like to be on the ballot for one of these positions they must do either of the following:

- During the part of the November Buckeye Division 6 meeting dealing with nominations any person who would like to run for office must present themselves as a potential candidate. (If the potential candidate can't be at the November meeting, their representative may nominate them. This requires a letter or email from the

potential candidate to the Nominations Chair.) At that point, we will poll the members present to see if there are 10 who support that person.

OR

- Present a nomination petition to the Nominations Chair prior to or at the November 2020 Buckeye Division meeting. Contact the Nominations Chair for instructions.

Direct questions to the Nominations Chair.

Operations (Part 5) Controlling Trains

By Mike Wolf, MMR
Photos by Author

Since April, we have looked at several different aspects of operations. Operations: “a systematic movement of locomotives and cars from point A to point B with an underlying reason the rail cars are being moved.” This month, we will conclude the series with a summary of several different ways to control or direct the movement of trains throughout your layout or “logistical network.”

Why do we need a form of control for our layouts? The primary reason is to avoid traffic jams and collisions. The control system’s primary goal is to AUTHORIZE the use of the MAIN Track. So, the first step is to designate the Main Track or Tracks. In most rulebooks, SECONDARY Tracks are all tracks not designated as the Main Tracks. As such, RESTRICTED speed applies to all movements made on Secondary Tracks. Restricted speed generally is a speed that will allow an engine and cars to stop in HALF the distance to visible equipment, improperly lined switches, or any other obstruction. This would apply to trackwork within yard limits, industrial sidings, and even a passing siding not designated as Main Track. MAIN Track requires authorization for all incursions or movement.

There are nearly as many ways to authorize and control the movement of trains on your layout as there are ways to direct the movement of cars. (See last month’s article). But which one is best? Similar to car routing, that depends on your operating scheme, your era, the amount of time you have for prep and training, and the skills of your operating crew. Let’s examine several systems.

Mother, May I?

The most basic is affectionally known as “Mother, May I?” (aka MMI). As the name implies, the train operator asks the controlling agent (layout owner or dispatcher) to occupy a portion of the main. This is a very informal “system” with limited paperwork and simple to follow rules. It works well in many different eras and on layouts of various sizes. Although each of my train crews has a work card describing the job it is working to complete, I include fixed

HC1	Harrisburg	to Columbus
Motive Power	PRR 4828	GG1
Decoder	4828	
Location	ES 1	
<u>Obtain clearance to BO Tower</u> P/U and S/O at B&O (see below) Anotate P/U <u>Obtain clearance to West Valley</u> S/O IND – (see below) drop ____ P/U IND COL/B&O (anotate below) <u>Obtain clearance to EK Tower</u> <u>Obtain Clearance to Yard</u> Proceed to Yard for sorting <u>Change power & Cabin</u> UP 3985 Challenger <u>Obtain clearance to Columbus</u>		
Terminates	WS 3	

Figure 1. The underline text shows fixed clearance limits.

clearance limits. (See **Figure 1**). The dispatcher requires the crew to ask for clearance before continuing to the next limit. All clearances are given verbally and nothing is written down. On my railroad, I can also see the entire layout from my typical perch. I can easily keep track of which trains I have cleared. There are only 5 or 6 segments of double track main to keep track of. With limited radio communications in my era, it is a compromise I’m willing to make.

Santa Cruz Division											
Read Down						Read Up					
Eastward						Westward					
Time Table No. 10						May 5, 1971					
STATIONS						STATIONS					
Second Class						First Class					
202 272 142 34						33 127 201 271					
Four Fr Freight						Sananton Fast Fr Freight					
Leave Daily						Arrive Daily					
To Daily, Fr						To Daily, Fr					
Sat / Sun						Sat / Sun					
AM						PM					
6:25						6:27					
0.0						37.6					
BOARDWALK						SANTA CRUZ (Sa)					
0.7						6.22					
11.25						7.33					
2.35						8.20					
8.25						10.45					
6.30						33					
5.5						29					
11.56						6.01					
3.30						7.12					
8.42						7.58					
6.49						9.55					
10.9						1.6					
12.4						24					
16.2						9					
17.4						20.2					
19.0						18.6					
19.5						18.1					
24.8						12.8					
32.7						4.9					
34.2						3.4					
34.9						2.7					
36.4						1.2					
37.4						0.2					
37.6						0.0					
AM						PM					
PM						AM					
AM						PM					
AM						PM					

W.P. Jct and San Jose:

Trains will be governed by Western Pacific RR Timetable and rules.

Figure 2. An example of a timetable.

Timetable and Train Order

At the other end of the spectrum would be Timetable and Train Order (TTTO). It is a very prototypical system of control, used on some railroads until the late 1970s or early 1980s. However, it can be an intimidating system for new operators and has a steep learning curve for others. There are several good books on the topic (as well as numerous articles in *Model Railroader* over the years). Three books I would recommend are *Rights of Trains* by Peter Josseland; *19 East, Copy Three* by Dave Sprau and Steve King (and available from the OPSIG website); and the *Condensed Code of Operating Rules* by Karas, Hanmer & King. I’d also recommend signing up for a session during a regional or national convention. In most cases, the layout owner requires attendees to

Operations – 5
Continued on page 9.

Continued: **Operation – 5**

attend a clinic on the timetable and rules used. Going into a session without that training would likely make for a rough night of operations. I don't pretend to be an expert on TTTO. I have never operated on a layout that operates that way. But there is a segment of the operations world out there that really enjoys it. See **Figure 2** for an example of a timetable. Refer to the books and articles above to learn more about the class of trains, the superiority of trains, extras, and the many different rules involved.

Track Warrant Control and Direct Train Control

Track Warrant Control (TWC) and Direct Train Control (DTC) are also prototypical but easier in several ways than TTTO. Track warrants, improved in the mid-1980s, generally replaced TTTO on many railroads as methods of communications by telephone and radio. Most midwestern and western railroads follow the *General Code of Operating Rules* (GCOR). While Most eastern railroads generally follow the *Northeast Operating Rules Advisory Committee* (NORAC) rulebook. While they have different names and rules used in both rulebooks, they are essentially the same. They use a written permission slip to permit a train to occupy a specific portion (or block) of the main track between designated locations. As you'll recall from an earlier article in this series, I stressed the need to name every point on your railroad. Now you can likely see the importance of having designated/standardized names.

Santa Cruz Northern
Track Warrant
(Mark "X" in box for each item instructed)

No. 9 Date: 2/23, 2013
To: ENG 2932 At: Mac St

☐ Track Warrant No. _____ is void.
☒ Proceed from Mac St to ERICA
☐ Not in effect until after arrival of _____
☐ Work between _____ & _____
☐ Do not foul limits ahead of _____
☒ Hold Main Track at last named point.
☒ Clear Main Track at last named point.
☐ Authority joint between _____
and _____ with _____
☐ This authority expires at _____
☐ Other specific instructions: _____

OK 5:08 PM Dispatcher ENG
Reported clear M By _____

Figure 3. An example of a track warrant form

message received. For both TTTO and TWC/DTC, the Dispatcher usually has a log to record the clearances issued. **Figure 4** shows an example of a dispatcher's log.

[illegible]

Figure 4. An example of a dispatcher's log.

Centralized Traffic Control

The final method of authorization I'll discuss is Centralized Traffic Control (CTC). CTC is "a block system under which train movements are authorized by block signals whose indications supersede the superiority of trains for both opposing and following movements on the same track." In other words, written documents are not required. You're clear to proceed if a signal displays an aspect clearing you into a block. CTC provides centralized control for signals and power-operated switches within a designated CTC territory from a single control console known as a control machine. **Figure 5** shows a Union Switch & Signal control machine. The first CTC machine went into use in 1929. So CTC could be prototypical for your layout across many different eras. The drawback of using CTC to control your trains is the investment of time, technical expertise, and money required to install signals, detection circuits, electric turnout control, and a CTC machine console on your layout. The Zanesville Club had an excellent example of a physical CTC machine. John Smith's C&O layout in Germantown uses JMRI's PanelPro and a large monitor as his CTC machine.

Conclusion

That concludes a brief summary of four of the more common methods

Operations – 5
Continued on page 10.



Figure 5. A Union Switch & Signal control machine.

of controlling the flow of trains across your mainline. Each has strengths and weaknesses depending on your era, desire for paperwork, desire for matching a prototype, and of course the level of funding for your hobby. As always, it's your railroad – do what you enjoy!

I hope this series has given you a taste for the wide range of operational schemes and design criteria available out there and hopefully at least one of you will be adding (or expanding) operating sessions on your layout in the future. I'll conclude by recommending *A Compendium of Model Railroad Operations From Design to Implementation*. It is a hardbound collection of articles from the Operations

Special Interest Group (OPSIG). It contains 300 pages of information on all the topics I've discussed and much more in-depth information on all the many different aspects of operations. It's a primary source for much of the information contained in these articles.

Here's a summary of the previous segments of this series: Mike Wolf's, MMR, *Operation Series* in the *Super's Signal*.

Ops 1: *What Is Operations?*, April 2020

Ops 2: *Designing (or reconfiguring) Your Layout for Operations*, May 2020

Ops 3: *Help Wanted – Employment Opportunities During an Operating Session*, June 2020

Ops 4: *Car Routing*, August 2020

Ops 5: *Controlling Trains*, September 2020

The division recorded the June clinic on Operations. If you missed it, see the link and password below. Note, the first couple of slides are missing.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xNxVFLexGRLGs-Wr2X5A5QBRpnLT6a8gyFLqPQMnxlqcB3AR0xgcBL2O2lzlOLb>

Password: **4j!5^S3k**

As always, if you have an operations related question, I'm always glad to help.

Request for Clinicians



The planning committee for the 2021 Mid Central Region Convention, The *Northern Express*, is looking for clinicians. We are looking for a variety of topics from prototype modeling, modeling methods, empire building, electronics, and well, you name it. Submitted clinics will be selected based on subject needs, timeliness, and the number of clinic slots.

The convention is being held at the Ambassador Center in Erie, Pennsylvania from May 20 through 23, 2021. The center will feature three well-lit clinic rooms with tables for clinicians and participants alike. The Ambassador was the site of our successful Mini-Meet last September, giving participants a chance to get a peek at our future convention center.

Contact Doug Sandmeyer at dsandme@stny.rr.com for more information and the submission form. Visit the Northern Express website at <https://www.div12mcr.org/northern-express/>.