

Super's Signal

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

December 2020

Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Super

Happy November, everyone! This month I have a mish-mash of updates for you.

Mid Central Region BOD

At the end of November, the Mid Central Region had its bi-annual Board of Directors meeting. Part of this meeting are reports from each division's Superintendent. There were two common themes in most of these reports.

One theme covered membership, with many divisions reporting a slight downward trend. The general consensus blamed the cancellation of various outreach events, such as train shows or layout displays, for the decline. As Membership Chair Rick Brown has previously reported, our membership level (until this past month) has remained steady over the summer and into autumn. Our public recruiting efforts at train shows, including our own, are both relatively new. Leading me to believe (speculation) that we hadn't yet established reliance on these venues for growth. The flip side is that we haven't been hurt by cancellations of these events – at least so far.

The second common theme at the BOD meeting regarded virtual meetings. Most Superintendents reported a slight increase in meeting attendance, compared to in-person meetings last year. Division 8 provided more detail, reporting that the mix of members showing up at meetings has also changed. Some formerly regular in-person attendees show up less frequently. While others who rarely showed up at in-person meetings regularly show up at the virtual versions! It would be interesting to see if the same dynamic holds true in our division (analysis, anyone?).

Super's Signal Deadline
10 December

6 December Division Meeting by Zoom Video Call

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

1:30: Business Meeting starts

2:15: (estimate)

Clinic: *Earning the Scenery AP*, Richard Briggs, MMR

Clinic: *The Road to MMR*, Mike Wolf, MMR & Howdy Lamprecht, MMR

Virtual Photo Contest #7: Passenger Car

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

There were two takeaways from the BOD meeting. One was to hold a cross-division Zoom "Primer" for all MCR Superintendents and their technical folks to share virtual meeting ideas with one another. We held the first of these on November 12th. We intend to hold additional sessions with the goal of improving the way we all do things. The second takeaway was to establish a Region-wide Groups.io mailing list to share ideas. And (possibly) use as a hunting ground to find members who are willing to present clinics outside their home division.

DCC++ Clinic Published to Groups.io

Speaking of clinics, Richard Matejovic presented a very interesting clinic to 22 rapt attendees at our November 8 meeting. He discussed his home-built DCC++ command station. (See [page 11.](#))

He used a Raspberry Pi mini-computer to connect Wi-Fi throttles to his command station. A similar setup also works for store-bought DCC systems.

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/>

[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

All Photographs and Articles are copyrighted by the submitters and may not be used without their permission.

Clerk's Report
Buckeye Division 6,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Virtual Division Meeting
8 November 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
Contest	Jim Ruisinger
Groups.io	Jim Ruisinger
Inspector of Elections	Harry "Butch" Sage
Media	Matt Goodman
Membership Programs	Rick Brown
Raffle	Dexter Hill / Mike Wolf, MMR
Super's Signal Publisher	Harry "Butch" Sage
Web Master	Don Wilke
	Don Wilke

Absent:

Company Store, Train Show	Greg Short
Membership Retention	Bruce McDonald

Announcements:

Matt posted the link to the photos in the current virtual photo contest to the Zoom meeting's chat.

The Mid Central Region's (MCR) BOD held a meeting about two weeks ago. All the MCR's divisions reported membership as stable or slightly flagging. Region members cannot get out to meet physically, so members have lost personal contact. But some Zoom meetings are showing slightly stronger attendance since members don't have to spend time traveling.

The MCR has created its own groups.io, likely more for announcements than chatting. Watch for emails with information and an invitation to join.

The MCR is going to provide assistance in conducting Zoom meetings in response to requests. Contact Matt for information and watch for invitations to attend.

Reports:

Clerk's Report: Carter Jastram. The membership approved the Clerk's Report, as published in the November 2020 *Super's Signal*, pp. 2-4.

Paymaster's Report: Jim Borcz. The membership

The Clerk's Report
Continued on page 3.

approved the Paymaster's Report, pending audit. Concerning receipts for postage expenses, the Paymaster relies on Darrell Logan's paperwork to provide those. The Division 6 BOD will discuss this at their next meeting.

Program Report Locations: Dexter Hill. Dexter reported that our membership meetings will continue via Zoom for the foreseeable future. He moved that the dates of the first four division meetings of 2021. They are January 10, February 21, March 14, and April 11. Carter seconded, and the motion carried.

Program Report Clinics: Mike Wolf. Rick Brown displayed the screen titled *Upcoming Clinic Schedule*. The slide showed the clinics planned for today and December 6. For 2021, the January clinic will be *Building Structures*, February clinic will be *Adding Interiors*, the March clinic will be *Detailing a Steam Locomotive*, and there will be a *Scenery Extravaganza*. Watch the *Super's Signal* for the details.

Achievement Report: Dick Briggs. Dick was very pleased to announce that he had several certificates. Dexter Hill received a *Merit Award for Scenery*, *AP Certificate for Scenery*, and *AP Certificate for Electrical*. Dick expects that he will soon be delivering a *Civil Engineering Certificate* to Bill Connell. Dick also expects to soon award *Chief Dispatcher Certificates* to Matt, Dexter, Bob Lee, and Marla Wright. Once again, Dick reminded the members to keep our records of information and time spent toward Achievement Program Certificates.

Webmaster's Report: Don Wilke. In about two weeks, Don will have a new Timetable posted on the web.

Super's Signal Report: Don Wilke. There may be a double *Super's Signal* in January due to the need for a mail-in election ballot. Don needs a short background paragraph from each of the four Division 6 Director candidates. He will publish them in the December and January *Super's Signal*.

The deadline for articles in the December issue is this Thursday, November 12. Be sure to contact Don if you can't meet that deadline.

Groups.io: Jim Ruisinger. Jim reports no changes to the number of members who are on our groups.io. He would like to see more people on it and would like to put another promotion for it in the *Super's Signal*.

Social Media/MailChimp: Rick Brown. MailChimp is now consistent each month with its messaging. The Division 6 Facebook page received a "like" from a model railroader visitor from Egypt! He and Rick have exchanged emails.

Matt encouraged us to engage through our Facebook page.

Membership Report: Rick Brown. Seven memberships lapsed, lowering our number to 160, a 4.2% drop. This was the same number we had two years ago. Rick has emailed the seven, with no replies yet. Ten members renewed last

month. Between now and December 31, 32 memberships are set to expire, with six more by February 28.

Company Store and Train Show Reports: Greg Short. No current news to report.

Nominating Committee Report: Butch Sage. The three current Division 6 Directors all agreed to run again. One additional candidate threw his hat into the ring. The January *Super's Signal* will contain a mail-in ballot. More details are under New Business.

Old Business:

Zoom Account Sharing: A group that wants to hold a Zoom meeting that is model railroad or trains related is welcome to use the Division 6 Zoom account. Contact Rick Brown or Matt Goodman. The Norfolk & Western Zoom meeting went well. If Rick Brown is available, he is happy to help host. It is challenging for one person to both admit attendees and run the meeting.

Zoom Account Renewal: Don said that we need to keep track of the number of non-division meetings. Especially of the length of time of each in preparation for renewing our Zoom account.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Butch Sage. Pat Hreachmack joined the three current division directors in running for election to the new term. This requires a mail-in ballot in the January *Super's Signal*. Division members must return the ballot to Butch by a date in March [probably March 14—Clerk]. The Nominating Committee will announce the winners in April and the Directors will begin their terms shortly after that.

Butch asked for other nominations. Upon receiving none, he moved to accept the four and to close the nominations. Don seconded, and the motion passed. Butch and Don will coordinate with Rick Brown to prepare and send out election materials.

Club Reports:

Associated Model Railroad Engineers of Coshocton: Shut down until further notice. They canceled two special-event meetings.

Delaware County Model Railroaders Group (Sunbury): Closed to the public, but members are still meeting. Division 6 members are welcome to visit as long as occupancy remains below ten.

Hocking Valley Model Railroad Club: Dexter Hill. Still on hiatus.

Janis Center Model Railroad Club. Darrell reports that the layout has been disassembled. The monthly membership meetings are being held in the Center. The city has not decided on the fate of the Center.

Mini-Bunch: Butch Sage. The Mini-Bunch will hold a virtual meeting next Saturday, November

Continued: **Clerk's Report**

14. They will offer three clinics: an update on the *East Broad Top*, *Finishing Models*, and *Locomotive Conversions in Hon3 and On3*. Our members are welcome. The meeting opens at 12:30 and will start at 1:00 p.m.

Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers Club (NEOLS): Shut down for the year.

Zane Trace & National Trail Model Railroad Club (Zanesville): This club will have an open house next weekend.

Contest:

Virtual Photo Contest—Closed Freight Car: Jim Ruisinger, Jim reported that Third Place went to Mike Wolf (Photo #15), Second Place awarded to Rich Matejovic (#16) and First Place went to Matt Goodman (#13). Don said the photos will be on the web page tomorrow afternoon. Congratulations to the winners. Keep those entries coming in!

Photographer of the Year: Four people are within four points of each other, so the race is close. See the *Super's Signal* for updates.

The December 6 contest is **Passenger Cars**. Members may enter photographs of models or prototype from now through December 3 at 10 p.m. Members may vote from December 4, 12:01 a.m. until December 5 at 6:00 p.m. The Contest Chair will announce the winners at the December 6 meeting. There is currently no limit to the number of

Continued: **The Super's Report**

There was enough interest that Richard agreed to publish his clinic in both PowerPoint and .pdf format to our Groups.io files section. You can find it here: <https://groups.io/g/NMRABuckeyeDivision/files/Clinic%20Documents/DCC++%20Richard%20Matejovic>. Also, see Mike Wolf's report for a link to the recorded clinic.

Train Station Recognized in Walthers Catalog!

To close my report, I found some really interesting news on the Train Station's Facebook page. On November 11, Mike and Marty posted the following:

photos a person may enter. Remember, members may only enter photos taken by oneself.

Jim is working on the contest schedule for next year, which will be similar to this year's schedule. The months with no meeting may still have a Zoom photo contest. Jim may try a different voting technique, which could include ranking three photos.

Good of the Order:

Next Steering Committee Meeting: The next Steering Committee will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m. Any member may attend any Steering Committee meeting. Contact Superintendent Matt Goodman for the Zoom meeting link, if interested.

Next Division 6 Membership Meeting: The next division meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Sunday, December 6, at 1:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting will open at 1 p.m.

Adjournment:

Matt adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m., after a motion to adjourn by Jim, seconded by Rick Matejovic.

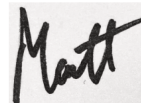
Clinic:

Beginning at 2:35 p.m., Rick Matejovic presented *DCC++ Boot Camp and a Piece of Pi*. The division recorded the clinic and a summary will appear in the next *Super's Signal*. We express our appreciation to Rick for a different look at controlling a layout with DCC. We encourage anyone with an idea or an experience to talk with Mike Wolf about sharing a clinic at a future date.

We had a pleasant surprise when we opened up the new Walthers Catalog. The Train Station has been named Best In Class of the Brick & Mortar Brigade. Thank you to all of our customers, including members of area clubs like the Central Ohio Model Railroad Club, Central Ohio N-Track, NMRA Division 6, and the Coshocton Model Railroad Club, who took the time to write and email Walthers about our store, and who allowed us to win this honor. This year especially, we are grateful to all of our customers.

And with that, it's time to drop the fire. Have a happy Thanksgiving season everyone, and we hope to see you on the mailing list. If you're not a member yet, send an email to NMRABuckeyeDivision+subscribe@groups.io.

Time to drop the fire!



Division 6 Email Group:
NMRABuckeyeDivision@groups.io

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	Meeting Canceled	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	Convention Canceled	<i>Virtual Contest #3: Express</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa
20 Jun (Saturday)	Virtual Meeting on Zoom	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> 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)	Meeting Canceled	Business Meeting: <i>Marion Union Station</i> Clinic: <i>Fast Broad Top Railroad</i> , Butch Sage; <i>DCC++</i> , Richard Matejovic; <i>Weathering Techniques</i> , Steve Hurt Photo Contest: Railroad Derelicts / Wrecks	Marion
9 Aug	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>East Broad Top Railroad</i> , Butch Sage Virtual Photo Contest #4: Railroad Derelicts / Wrecks	Zoom
13 Sep	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> 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: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>Model Finishing Techniques Extravaganza</i> Virtual Photo Contest: cabooses (cabeese, cabin cars)	Zoom
18 Oct	Train Show Canceled	Business Meeting: NONE Clinic: NONE Contest: NONE	Cambridge
15 Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
8 Nov	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>DCC++</i> , Richard Matejovic Contest: Closed Freight Car	Zoom
12 Nov	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
6 Dec	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>Earning the Scenery AP</i> , Dick Briggs, MRR; <i>The Road to MMR</i> , Mike Wolf, MMR, & Howdy Lamprecht, MMR Contest: Passenger Car	Zoom
10 Dec	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline	<i>Election Issue</i>	

Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

“Virtual” Contest – #6 Re-Cap October 2020 via the Internet

We started out slow with photos coming in but came on strong at the finish. We had 15 great photos for our Virtual Photo Contest #7 “Closed Freight Cars”. We announced the winners at our November 8th “Zoom” Division 6 meeting. We also posted the winners on the Division 6 Facebook Page. We posted the photos on a special page of Division 6’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, whenever that ends up being.

So onward we forge into December and beyond with our “Virtual” Buckeye Division meetings via Zoom. Our December contest will be **Passenger Cars**. And remember our usual guidelines apply that the photo can be of either a model or the prototype and must have been originally taken by the member submitting. It seems giving everyone two days to vote worked out pretty well so we are continuing with that timing. Members may start submitting photos for the December contest this week. But all photos need to be in by 10 pm, THURSDAY, December 3rd. Members will have two days, December 4th and 5th to cast their votes. Voting will close at 6 pm on the 5th. We will announce the winners at our Zoom meeting on Sunday, December 6th. We will send email reminders on the Buckeye

Model: None

Photo: Closed Freight Cars whether it’s model or prototype

1st Place: Matt Goodman, *T&OC Wood sided Box Car* (model)

2nd Place: Richard Matejovic, *Seaboard Box Car* (N-Scale model)

3rd Place: Mike Wolf, *Graffiti’d up Hopper* (model)

Division’s email groups as well as posted on the Buckeye Division’s Facebook page.

Cumulative point totals for Modeler and Photographer of the Year appears below. As you’ll see, it’s a real dogfight heading into the last contest of the year for the “Photographer of the Year”.

Direct any questions to:

Contest Chairman, Jim Ruisinger. (614) 440-8962

Jimbo2490@yahoo.com



1st Place Photo by Matt Goodman

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	19	David Evers	2
Don Wilke	18	Bruce McDonald	2
Harry Sage	17	John Baker	1
Richard Matejovic	15	(By way of Jack Brown)	
Jim Borcz	12	Dick Briggs, MMR	1
Jim Ruisinger	12	Peggy Doerflein	1
Howdy Lamprecht, MMR	11	Carter Jastram	1
Dave Richter	10	Doug Kullman	1
Rick Brown	9	Andrea McIntosh	1
Jerry Hurt	8	William Morgan	1
Steve Hurt	6	Jim Oberst	1
Mike Wolf, MMR	6	Jerry Severson	1
Bill Alarie	4	Greg Short	1

Membership End of the Month Report

Rick Brown, Membership Chair

Summary/Comments

I read something this week, and I thought this was poignant; not only for this month and season but for 2020.

If gratitude is an antidote for anxiety...(2020)
and giving thanks is a real cure for stress...(2020)
why relegate Thanksgiving to a holiday when giving thanks can revolutionize our whole lives?

Now, if I was producing a scholarly paper, I would need to footnote cite this as attributed to Professor Robert Emmons, editor of the *Journal of Popular Psychology*. I wonder if he was a model railroader. Why?...

I think it is important to pause here and consider things that the Buckeye Division might be thankful for this year.

Thanks to:

Greg for his past leadership and his work on producing the Train Show. Matt G for his current leadership and efforts to build and improve our division. Jim R for making our new Virtual Model and Photo Contest a real success and

his tireless work on getting the voting to work out. Mike W for totally committing to building a schedule of clinics and getting them produced. So far the virtual clinics have all been great. Can't wait for the next *Extravaganza!*

Don W for continuing to grow the website and developing and publishing this *Signal*. Truly a labor of love. Carter and Jim and Dexter and all the officers and board members for the work and direction of our group.

Zoom for allowing us to still get together and keep this movement alive. All the contest participants for really stepping up on this project. Each month gets better, and I can't wait to see what comes next month...it's my FAVORITE theme.

Fall and winter, even though I am no fan of cold and snow, this is peak model railroading time! Last, but not least, our local train shops, who keep us supplied, keep us enthused, and for being there for us daily (support your local guys please).

Active Members (end of the month):

Oct	160	Oct '19	167
September	167	September '19	170
August	169	August '19	171
July	166	July '19	165

Upcoming Expirations – Check your dates! There are **38** of our **160** members who expire before the end of February 2021. Note: If you have questions about when your membership expires, check your magazine address label or contact Membership Chair Rick Brown.

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

October saw **ten** members renew their NMRA membership. There additionally were **seven** members who fell into the inactive category. This represents a 4.2% drop in our division membership, a percentage that has not been seen since July 2019. Membership numbers are in the same amount as Spring of 2018. This type of change is being reported by all of the divisions in the Mid Central Region, as well as the National organization. Let's blame Covid.

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



Division 6 on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:

NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]



Clinic Updates

Thanks to Rich Matejovic for an outstanding clinic on assembling a DCC++ system. For those that missed, or would like to watch again, the video is available at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/R10mSr_IdNy24-zQUmgw8UuCedt3u7VVCSA7EhLMRpX0Cvtr_MGRsR3-qFTTx1wp.yzUUvRvprUsGYNAQz

Rich is providing some supplemental information in an article on [page 11](#). His slides are also posted in the FILES section of Groups.io.

Coming in December Dick Briggs, MMR, the Achievement Program Chair will discuss how to meet the requirements for the Scenery AP. While specific to the scenery AP, he'll also offer up some pointers in understanding and meeting the modeling requirements for many of the achievement program certificate. Additionally, two of our newest MMRs (Howdy and myself) will discuss our journey to MMR. We will discuss helpful pointers along with our successes and setbacks. It's not as hard as you think.

The clinic schedule for 2021 is already taking shape. In January, Frank Bongiovanni will discuss *Building Structures*. Pat Hreachmack will follow that in February with a discussion on *Structure Interiors*. In March, I'll discuss *Super-Detailing a Steam Locomotive*.

Later in 2021, look for a *Scenery Extravaganza!* I've got two clinicians lined up already but are looking for several more. We're planning a series of mini-clinics. So if you have a scenery technique you'd like to present (trees, ground cover, roads, city streets, etc, etc, etc), let me know.

As always, I am on the lookout for clinicians. Drop me a line at wvunion@gmail.com if you have an idea you'd like to present. It doesn't have to be an hour-long presentation. We can combine two or more mini-clinics. And clinics can count toward the Author or Volunteer AP. Check out the requirements for both to see which certificate your presentation qualifies for.

Some Train Show Updates

Various Division 6 Members

Division 6 Train Show: The Division 6 Board Of Directors **cancelled** our Cambridge Train Show for 2020. Greg has already reserved the space for October 17, 2021.

Cleveland O Scale Show: Seeing blurbs from our friends at COOSE that the big Parma Ohio Train show scheduled for November 7th has been **cancelled**. Resurgence of COVID cases have pushed that county into a higher danger level making the cancellation necessary.

AMREC: The Coshocton Model Railroad Club (AMREC) remains **closed** to visitors. They have **cancelled** two of their popular events, those being the Black Friday and New Years Eve operating sessions.

COSI: COSI has **cancelled** model railroad week for this year. The annual model railroad display was scheduled for the week of November 16.

As most of you know, COSI has not re-opened since the pandemic closed it back in March. Alan Goss said no re-opening date has been set.

In a slight bit of good news, he did confirm that COSI wants to hold it again in 2021. We'll have to see how many of us at COOSE are around and feeling up to it then, but since that's more than a year away, let's not worry about it now.

Dayton Show: The Dayton was also recently **cancelled**.

Springfield Show: The Springfield, Ohio, show has been recently **cancelled**.

Other Shows: Of the 20 or so shows scheduled in Ohio in the fall, all but two or three have been **cancelled**.

2021 Mid Central Region Convention, *The Northern Express*, has been **cancelled**.

Upcoming Election Information

Reported by Harry "Butch" Sage
Buckeye Division 6 Nominations Chair

In January 2021, Division 6 members will elect three people to serve a two-year term as Division 6 Director. The Nominations Chair finalized the nominations at the November meeting. Four division members have decided to run for Director.

The January issue for the *Super's Signal* will contain the official ballot for the election of Division 6's Directors. All members of Division 6 will receive the January issue, the

Election Issue, of the *Super's Signal*. The official ballot will be on the next to the last page. Cut it out and return it to the Nominations Chair by the date stated on the ballot. Make sure the mailing label is on the opposite side of the ballot.

Because of mailing costs, the mailed version may not contain all the information found in the on-line version.

Direct questions to the Nominations Chair.

Dick Briggs, MMR



I am seeking election to the office of Director for Division 6, NMRA, Inc. The Division 6 BOD appointed me as Director to serve the remaining time of our current Superintendent.

It is exciting to see the renewed enthusiasm of our current leaders to bring new technology and innovation forward to keep the Buckeye Division viable in these trying times. I would very much like to be part of the efforts to grow membership and offer great programs for our members. Please consider joining our Zoom meetings, join in conversations with other modelers from our division, and participate in the on-line clinics offered after the meetings.

My qualifications are based on over 30 years of active membership, two terms as Division 6 Superintendent, and five years as Mid Central Regional President.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patrick Hreachmack



Over the last ten years, I have become deeply involved with HO-Scale model railroading and joined the NMRA in 2012. Often, I could be found at the Columbus Model Railroad Club, usually in the Dispatcher's chair, where under the tutorage of John Howard and other CMRC members, I learned the intricacies of dispatching. During the same timeframe, I joined the Janis Model Railroad Club and due to my modeling expertise became the Scenery Chairperson for the Janis MRC. This carried over to the CMRC where I completed many scenery repairs and updates.

After joining the NMRA, Superintendent Greg Short asked me to take over the Division 6 Clerk position when it was vacated early. After the initial two years, I was re-elected and served a full term as Clerk. During my nearly five years as the Division Clerk, I attended nearly every Division 6 Board meeting and became very familiar with how the NMRA boards of directors are operated and the kinds of items they tackled on behalf of the membership. Greg Short also asked me to become familiar with the Division 6 by-Laws, to assist him.

As an NMRA member, I've also served as a volunteer for Regional Conventions, first at our own Division 6 convention here in Columbus. Later with the Akron division at their convention. Working both conventions gave me excellent experience, also very applicable to our division Board of Directors.

My name has become known to many model railroaders both within and outside our division. Several of these, including Frank Bongiovanni and other senior NMRA leaders, have become good friends and even have asked me when I would move to a Board position. I continue to strongly support the NMRA at every opportunity, such as being "front man" for the Janis MRC during several years of the Ohio State Fair. I was able to share much information re the NMRA with visitors interested in model train operations.

Finally, during my 33-year health care administration career, I served a number of times on the health care Board of Directors including for the National Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention. Other boards were more regional or local.

Election Information
Continued on Page 10.

Donald Wilke

My first layout was a 4x8 HO layout in the middle of my father's double-track around the basement O-Scale layout. I joined the NMRA, Division 4 in the late '50s as a family member. After college, I became active in Division 6 attending most meetings. In the mid-'70s, I became an inactive member of the division. Something about wife, kids, and work. I followed division actives through the *Super's Signal* – which is why I think it's important to make the *Signal* available to as many members as possible. [You can find copies of the *Signal* at: <https://archive.div6-mcr-nmra.org/Signal-20.html>].

I again became active in both the Mid Central Region and Division 6 in '06. I shortly became the WebMaster for the division and then for the Mid Central Region, positions I currently hold. When Dick Briggs became the Mid Central Region President, he talked me into publishing the *Kingpin*. I did that for about seven years. I took over publishing the *Super's Signal* in 2010 and the *Signal* has undergone many changes scene then.

I ran for Division 6 Director in 2011 when we changed the Trustee position to Director.

I'm now working on my fifth layout, five years of planning, and four years of moving stuff around the basement.

I would appreciate your vote to continue serving as your Division 6 Director.

Mike Wolf, MMR

I am a lifelong model train enthusiast and have been a member of Division 6 since moving to Ohio 13 years ago. I have served as Director for the last three years. During that time, my focus has been in three areas: listening to the needs of the membership, expanding our membership and member retention efforts, and improving the financial strength of the division. I was a founding member of our Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee. In addition to our recruiting efforts at various shows in the area, the committee has made improvements to our meetings and events that YOU have suggested - shorter business meetings, more clinics, etc. To that end, I've volunteered as a Co-Program chair for clinics to ensure a wide variety of clinics each month on a schedule that you can count on. Additionally, I assisted the Train Show committee with advertising and promotion support. Lastly, I have focused on supporting fiscally responsible decisions when it comes to spending Division 6 funds - activities and projects

that benefit the membership while preserving adequate funds for the future. I will continue to focus on these efforts and continue to listen to your suggestions to improve your Division. I would appreciate your vote and to continue serving as your Division 6 Director.

My View of the Division's Groups.io

Don Wilke

Groups where like minded people can get together to talk about common interests. Some people make a lot of comments on the group.io and some, like me, rarely comment.

I'm a member of three groups.io, The Buckeye Division, the Mid Central Region, and the Nickel Plate Historical Society. I have learned many useful techniques and other interesting information from each of these groups. Well, not the Mid Central Region—it's too new and still setting up.

The Buckeye group.io has a lively discussion about *What Are You Modeling?* We saw photographs of the progress on the Marion Station that Dick Briggs is restoring. Some members made complementary comments and some provided Dick with additional information about the

station. Mike Wolf showed an interior for his dinner that he printed. He also made a couple of comments about printing the stools. He worried about painting the interior and some people offered some suggestions.

We have also seen the progress on Matt's hand-laid track, an update on a Wonder Bread Bakery building, a few really beat up box cars – oh wait, those were models, and much more.

You can receive emails from the group.io in a couple of different ways. The two most common are *i)* every time someone posts, or *ii)* once a day.

Contact Jim Rusinger at:
ContestChair@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org
to join the Buckeye Division's group.io.

Build a DCC ++ System



Richard Matejovic (Photos by Author)

This is a shortened version of my DCC++ class. I have the full class available if anyone wants to check it out. I will include the links to the hardware that I used in this short write-up.

Let's build a budget friendly DCC system. Gregg E Berman designed this system. This is not my work I am just trying to put everything in one place to make it easier.

All you need is an Arduino Uno or clone, and a Motor Shield, and you have a two amp DCC system with a Main and a Programming track. This with a RaspberryPi 3b+ (See Figure 1) or an old laptop running JMRI.

You should be able to build this system for less than \$50. Amazon has Uno R3 clones from about \$9 to \$14.

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=elegoo+uno+r3&i=industrial&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

Amazon has the Motor shields for \$14.00.

https://www.amazon.com/diy-more-Channel-Expansion-Replace-MEGA2560/dp/B06XSGWD7V/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=uno+r3+motor+shield&qid=1605142588&sr=8-5

If you are willing to wait you can get both from china for about \$10.00

Micro Center has the RaspberryPi 3b+ for \$25.00

<https://www.microcenter.com/product/505661/element-14-raspberry-pi-3-model-b>

The power supplies came from my junk box.



(1) RaspberryPi 3b+

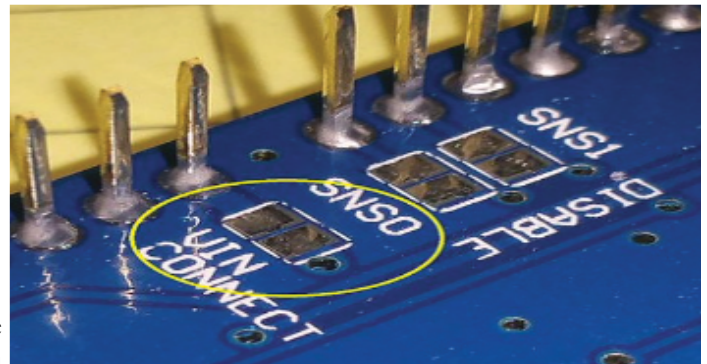
Assembly

Let's assemble the parts we are going to need.

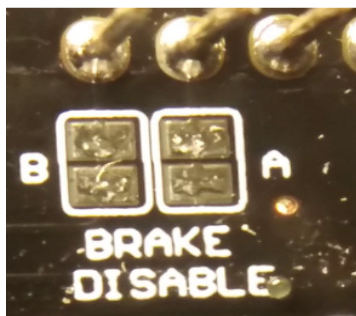
- 1 Arduino Uno R3 or Clone.
- 1 Arduino Motor Shield
- 1 Old Laptop power supply
- 2 Jumper wires
- 1 X-Acto knife

Step 1

Turn the motor shield over. You may want to cut in two places. The first is the VIN trace. Since most old laptop power supplies are in the 16-20 volt range it is safer to cut the trace and provide separate power to the UNO. This is where you need to cut the VIN trace. Cut between the squares with the X-Acto. (See Figure 2.)



(2) Cut between the squares shown in the circle

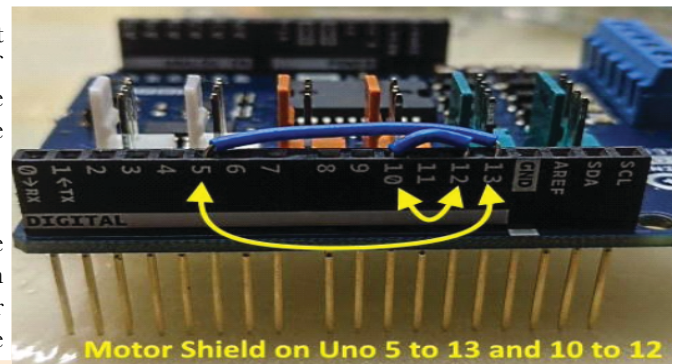


(3) Cut between each square shown

The second is the BRAKE trace. Not really needed but it frees a couple of pins for other things. These are the traces to cut if you want to free the additional pins. (See Figure 3.)

Step 2

Next, we will install 2 jumpers on the Motor Shield. One jumper between pins 5 and 13 and another jumper between pins 10 and 12 like this. (See Figure 4.)



Motor Shield on Uno 5 to 13 and 10 to 12

(4) Connect jumpers shown

Build a DCC ++ System
Continued on page 12.

Step 3

Line up the pins on the Motor Shield with the sockets on the Uno and push it together like this. (See Figure 5.)

You are done with the hardware, other than six wires for power and track connections.

Step 4

Plug a USB cable into the Uno and plug the cable into your computer.

Step 5

These instructions are for a PC based setup. Get on the web and go to <https://dcc-ex.com/>. These guys are updating DCC++ all the time. Across the top is the menu bar. Select “Downloads”. This will take you to the different options they have available. Select Automated Installer. This will download the Install program. Once it downloads go ahead and Unzip the installer to your system.

Go into the directory where you unzipped the installer to and run the "BaseStationInstaller" app. (See Figure 6.)

On the left side of the screen is a series of pull-down menus. For this setup, we are only going to do the “Basestation Classic”.

Starting at the top select

1: Select Base Station Type “BaseStation Classic”

2: Select Board Type “Uno”

3: Select Motor Shield “Arduino Motor Shield”

4: Select COM Port “COM ?” {The com port should show automatically}

5: Last Step Click on “Compile and Upload”

Disconnect the Arduino from the PC.

Step 6

Connect your laptop Motor Shield power supply to the VIN and GND Screw terminals. Important, **verify the polarity of the leads** from the power supply.

Connect the Main Track leads to the A block and the Programming Track leads to the B block screw terminals.

Plug the USB cable into the UNO. Things should look like this. (See Figure 7.)

Step 7

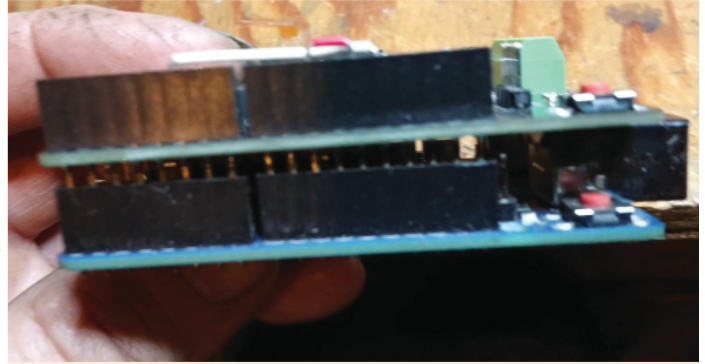
Decision time. If you are going to use a laptop for the JMRI interface Log onto <https://www.jmri.org/>. Select the Download button at the top of the screen and follow the installation instructions for your operating system. You will need to set up JMRI on your PC in order to run the DCC++ system.

OR

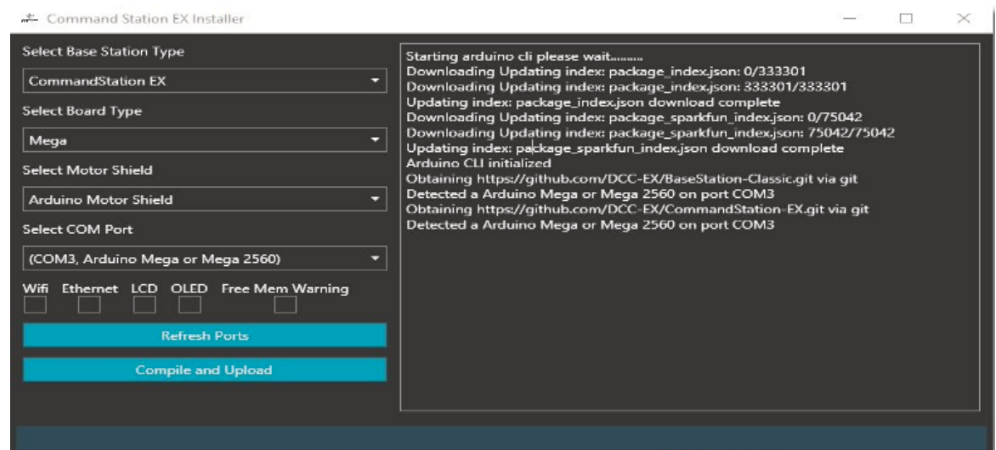
If you are going to use a Raspberry Pi for the computer interface you will need to have an 8 gig Micro SD memory card. Goto this website.

<https://mstvetodd.com/jmri-raspberrypi-access-point>

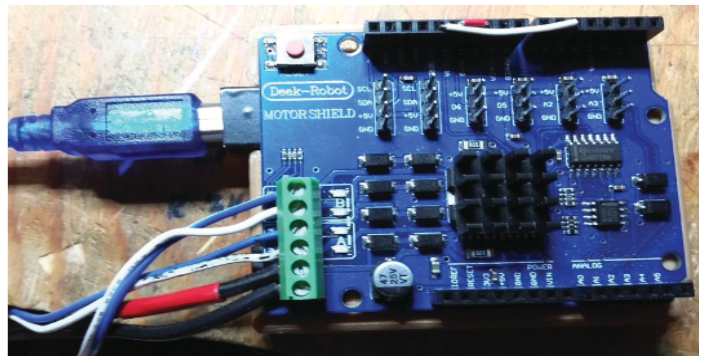
Partway down the screen, you will see where it says “Software Image”. (See the next page.)



(5) Gently push the Motor Shield onto the Uno



(6) What the directory looks like (sort of)



(7) Wired Motor Shield and Uno

Continued: **Build a DCC ++ System**

Below that says "Download the latest Image File". Go ahead and click on the [here] and save the image file.

To load the image file to the Micro SD card you are going to need an Imaging Program. Just above where it says "Running Trains" you will see two Highlighted program names. "Win32DiskImager" and "Etcher" I personally used "Etcher".

Unzip the Image File and start the Imaging program. place the Micro SD in the computer and burn the Image to the SD card. Eject the SD card and install it in the Raspberry Pi.

The advantage of using the Raspberry Pi is that this image loads JMRI so that all you need to do is log into it with an Android phone running the ENGINE DRIVER app or WiThrottle for the iPhone.

Now you've assembled the hardware and installed the image. First, connect your Raspberry Pi to your layout via your system's USB or serial connector; then plug in the Raspberry Pi's power adapter. You should see some LEDs on the Raspberry Pi begin to blink. Using your wifi-capable phone, you'll see a WiFi network named "RPi-JMRI". Select it and enter "rpI-jmri" when prompted for the key (note that third character is a capital "eye"). Open EngineDriver on your phone, and you should have an available connection under Discovered Servers named "RPi-JMRI [connection name]". (Similar to WiThrottle on iPhone). Select that server, then enter the loco address and run trains.

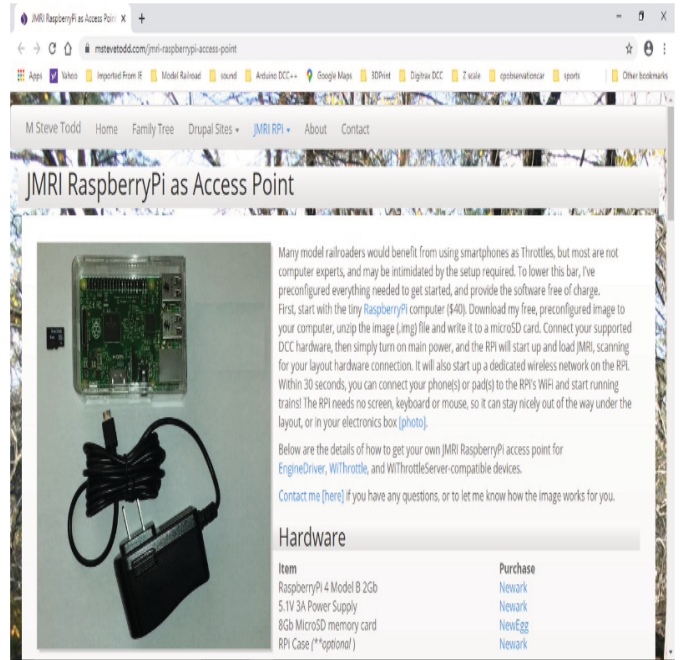
Step 8

Plug in the USB from the UNO and the power supply for the Uno motor shield. Both the Raspberry Pi and the Laptop versions will run the UNO from the USB port. If you have problems with it resetting itself, plug in a 5-9 volt DC power supply to the UNO.

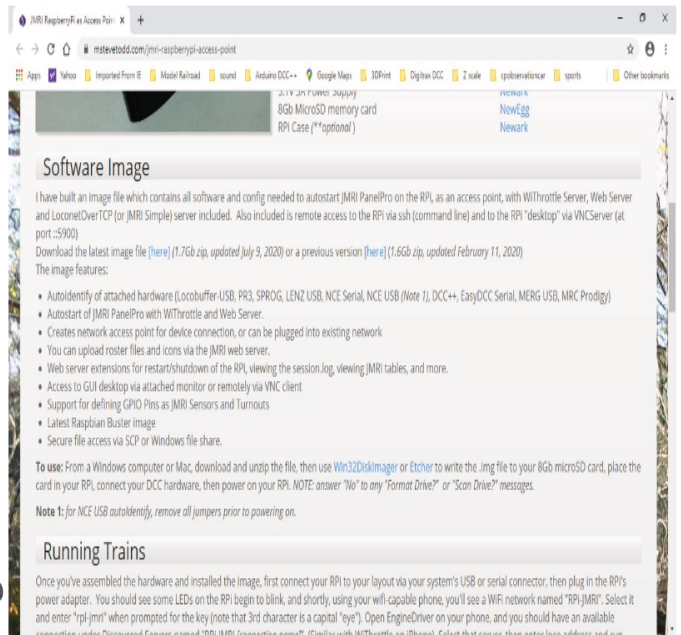
Power on your computer of choice. The Laptop will need to have JMRI started after it boots up. The Raspberry Pi will Boot and Load JMRI and the WiFi Throttle on its own. Pull out your phone load the Engine Driver app and run trains.

And that is all there is to it. Simple Right?


*Don't Just Belong,
Participate!!*



(8) JMRI-Raspberry Pi Access Point




(9) Software Image Page



NORTHERN EXPRESS
May 20-23, 2021

The 2021 Mid Central Region Convention, *The Northern Express*, put on by Division 12 in Erie, PA has been **canceled** due to COVID-19.



ALLEGHENY WESTERN DIVISION
12
MCR | NMR