

# Super's Signal

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

January 2021

## Election Issue

### Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Super

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a weird and frustrating year. The virus caused the cancelation or curtailment of work and operating sessions. Train shows and conventions have vanished. And of course, our division's meetings haven't been in-person events since March.

The silver lining, of course, has been the virtual division meetings. It's a good time to plug them again because this issue of the *Super's Signal* is going to be physically distributed to accommodate the Division 6 Director Election. That, in turn, means that some folks who don't typically see our announcements might this time.

If you are a member who is just learning about our online meetings, or knows about them, but haven't yet attended, just do it! Program Clinic Chair Mike Wolf has consistently put together a substantive, educational, and just plain interesting set of clinics from a wide range of members over the past year.

Joining an online meeting is as simple as clicking a Zoom link – if you can work eBay, you can join a meeting! The Zoom link is the same each month, so bookmark it for future meetings and add the dates to your calendar.

Feel free to give it a try right now. Click on or type the following into your browser – don't worry, it won't break anything!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2774050690>

Unless you happen to try this when the meeting is actually going on, you'll get an alert that the meeting hasn't yet started. When a meeting is in progress, you'll enter into a virtual waiting room until our virtual bouncer, Membership Chair Rick Brown virtu-

**Super's Signal Deadline**  
14 January

### 10 January 2120 Division Meeting by Zoom Video Call

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2774050690>

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

**1:30:** Business Meeting starts

**2:15:** (estimate)

Clinic: *Building Structured*, Frank Bongiovanni

**Virtual Photo Contest:** Open Freight Car with Load

Watch your email, or the Web Site for details, or contact Matt at [Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)

ally lets you in. Go ahead, try it right now.

If your test didn't work, or you just want to know more about Zoom, we regularly do one-on-ones with members to get them comfortable with the platform. Contact Rick Brown ([MembershipChair@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:MembershipChair@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)), myself ([Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)), or Clinic Chair Mike Wolf for a walkthrough.

I hope to see some new faces at January's division Zoom meeting. I'm sure we'll (again) learn something new and interesting about structures from Division 4's Frank Bongiovanni.

Speaking of Zoom and Clinics, our meeting on December 6th featured a two-presentation, three-person clinic with a common theme – the Achievement Program. I can say without hesitation that this was the best clinic on this topic I have ever seen. Three members presented it from two points of view. That of an evaluator (Dick Briggs MMR) and on the flip side, that of two candidates (Mike Wolf MMR, Howdy Lamprecht MMR).

Dick spoke about the nuts and

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**DIVISION 6 OFFICERS****Division 6 Superintendent**

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**Division 6 Pay Master**

Jim Borcz:

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**Directors**

Dick Briggs, MMR

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf, MMR:

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

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**Division 6 Web Site:**

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

**Mid Central Region President:**

Bob Weinheimer

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

**NMRA Central District Director:**

Robert Beaty, MMR

Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke  
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**Clerk's Report**  
**Buckeye Division 6,**  
**Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.**  
**Virtual Division Meeting**  
**6 December 2020**

*Carter Jastram, Clerk*

**Call to order**

The Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Matt Goodman, Division 6 Superintendent, at 1:31 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

Rick Brown

Programs

Dexter Hill / Mike Wolf, MMR

Raffle

Harry "Butch" Sage

Super's Signal Publisher

Don Wilke

Web Master

Don Wilke

**Absent:**

Company Store, Train Show

Greg Short

Membership Retention

Bruce McDonald

**Announcements:**

Matt has seen improvements in the quality of the photographs that the division members have submitted to the photo contests this past year. Members have been actively participating in the voting as well.

Division 12 canceled their hosting of the MCR Region Convention, May 2021, due to financial risks from COVID-19.

Matt informed the membership that the Steering Committee created two new committees at their last meeting. One committee is on our Division 6 Banner Design. If any member has an idea or is interested in participating, please contact Butch Sage or Rick Brown. The more members a committee has, the less the workload on each member.

**Reports:**

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

**Paymaster's Report:** Jim Borcz. Since the three-month CD was earning no more interest than the Savings Account,

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

Continued: **Clerk's Report**

Jim closed the CD and transferred the funds back into the Savings Account. The membership approved the Paymaster's Report, pending audit.

**Program Report Locations:** Dexter Hill. Dexter reported that there are no new updates. We will not be a meeting at the Upper Arlington Library in December. The division will continue with Zoom meetings for January 10, February 21, and March 14.

**Program Clinics Report:** Mike Wolf. Rick Brown posted a slide showing the schedule for the first four months of 2021. Mike has planned clinics for January 10, *Building Structures* by Frank Bongiovanni; February 21, *Structure Interiors* by Pat Hreachmack; and March 14, *Detailing Steam Locomotives* by Mike Wolf, MMR. We will most likely see a **Scenery Extravaganza** in June comprised of *Building Tunnels* by Darrell Logan and *Roads Using Grout* by Howdy Lamprecht. Matt will put on a clinic in April or May, and Rick Brown said he is available when needed. Watch the *Super's Signal* for details.

**Achievement Report:** Dick Briggs. Dick has delivered some of the AP Certificates he announced last month to the recipients. Bill Connell is close to earning his *Civil Engineer Certificate*. Several attendees indicated they have already earned the *Golden Spike Award*. Dick reminds division members to keep records of information and time spent toward Achievement Program Certificates.

**Webmaster's Report:** Don Wilke. Don has updated the Time Table Page and the Contest Pages on the division's Main Website and the Archive Website. Don will post today's contest winners on our website and also in the January *Super's Signal*. Links are on the division Welcome Page.

**Super's Signal Report:** Don Wilke. There will be two *Super's Signals* next month, a normal version posted on the Division 6 website and an abbreviated black and white version mailed to every member on the membership mailing list. The snail-mail version of the *Signal* will contain the **Official Ballot**. The **Official Ballot** is the only ballot accepted for voting in the upcoming election.

Don will make the normal *Signal* first, then use portions of it to create the black and white hardcopy snail-mail version. His goal is to mail the election copy to the printer before Christmas, so be sure to contact Don if you have something for the *Signal* and cannot make the deadline. The deadline for articles is this Thursday, December 10.

**Groups.io:** Jim Ruisinger. Jim announced that we have two new faces attending our Zoom meeting today. **Ken McDonough** recently rejoined, and **Bob Baker**, who has been a long time member, is now on groups.io. With 72 or 73 names on groups.io, we have just under half of our total membership in the Division 6 online group.

**Social Media/MailChimp:** Rick Brown. There were zero bounce backs in MailChimp this past week. Every member should have received four emails from the division.

If a member did not receive a MailChimp, please let Rick know.

**Membership Report:** Rick Brown. Our membership dropped by one to 159 in the past month. This reflects the trends at both Regional and National levels. Seven memberships are up for renewal in December and there are twenty between now and March. See the next *Super's Signal* for Rick's monthly report.

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

**Old Business:**

**Zoom Account Sharing:** The Mini Bunch used our Zoom account for their recent convention. Butch confirmed that it went very well. The division has changed the "locks".

**Website Survey:** The draft survey questions are ready for the Steering Committee to look at.

**New Business:**

**Retention Committee:** Mike Wolf. Mike, counting on a COVID vaccine, is looking for one or two more volunteers to join with Bruce and him in helping organize recruitment and retention. It will not take a lot of time, and the core principle is to have enough help so no one burns out.

**Club Reports:**

**Hocking Valley Model Railroad Club (Lancaster):** Dexter Hill. Dexter reports the club remains on hiatus.

**Janis Center Model Railroad Club (Columbus):** Patrick Hreachmack. Patrick reports the Janis Center is still closed for the foreseeable future. The city is dragging its heels on the future of the Center.

**Contest:**

**Virtual Photo Contest—Passenger Car:** Jim Ruisinger. Jim reports this contest had an excellent turnout with some firsts. There were sixteen photos with no multiple entries and several first-time entries. The *Super's Signal* will have a recap of 2020 in a review.

Jim reported that a tie for Third Place went to Dave Richter (Photo # 1, Amtrak car from an overpass) and Rich Matejovic (# 15, a model of CP observation car). Photo # 14 placed Second, which is Mike Wolf's Senator Blowhard whistle-stop observation car. First Place went to Howdy Lamprecht (# 13, Martini Flyer at Olive Grove).

Members who voted this time selected three photos and ranked them 1, 2, and 3, instead of voting for only one photo. Jim reported that the results were the same as if we had voted the old way, but voting this new way could eliminate eight- or ten-way ties. There is currently a one-point difference between each pair of First, Second, Third, and Fourth positions for Photographer of the Year.

Starting in January, Jim will use the new voting system to tabulate points accumulation for the year. The 2021 schedule will appear in the *Super's Signals*.

**The Clerk's Report**  
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## Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

### “Virtual” Contest – #8 Re-Cap December 2020 via the Internet

We round out a very unusual year with a couple of firsts. The Virtual Contest approach has been very well received. December saw 16 great photos for our Virtual Photo Contest #8 “Passenger Cars”. We announced the winners at our December 6th “Zoom” Division 6 meeting. We posted the winners on the Division 6 Facebook Page and website. Several different things happened in the course of this contest. First, we did not have anyone with multiple entries for this contest. And second, all but one of the entrants decided to send their photos directly to the Contest Chair rather than to the entire group. That adds an element of anonymity to whose photo belongs to who. We also tried having members vote for their 2nd and 3rd choices along with their favorite, and that went very well. I think we’ll keep that concept going for 2021.

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.

Our January contest subject will be “**Open Car with Load**”. Members can start submitting entries beginning Christmas weekend and will end on Thursday, January 7th. Voting will be on the 8th and 9th of January followed by our Zoom Division meeting on the 10th.

#### 2020 in Review:

To say that 2020 was a very unusual year for the Buckeye Division and NMRA as a whole, is a gross understatement.

**Model:** None

**Photo:** Passenger Car whether it’s model or prototype

**1st Place:** Howdy Lamprecht, *All aboard the “Martini Special” at Olive Grove*

**2nd Place:** Mike Wolf, *Senator Blowhard’s Whistle Stop Speech*

**3rd Place (Tie):** Richard Matejovic, *1906 Canadian Pacific “Dome” Car*

**3rd Place (Tie):** Dave Richter, *Amtrak SuperLiner Coach on the Empire Builder*

Health and safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of Regional and National Conventions. About every scheduled Train Show across the country was also canceled. COVID-19 forced us “underground” so to speak after we had three in-person meetings. Who would’ve thought back in April when Richard Matejovic suggested the “Virtual Contest” idea to Darrell Logan. And Darrell passed it along to us, that we would go the rest of the year holding our contests via the internet. Some were skeptical of the idea at first, but we ran with it and it ended up being very successful. Jumping into the Zoom world to hold our meetings, really took it to another level. It allowed guests from other divisions and regions the opportunity to “sit-in” on our meetings. Our Virtual Contests saw 31 different members enter 142 photos during the course of eight contests.

The Virtual Contest concept also

**The Contest Report**  
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### Final Contest Standings 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	20	Bob Baker	1
Don Wilke	19	John Baker	1
Harry Sage	18	(By way of Jack Brown)	
Richard Matejovic	17	Bill Connell	1
Howdy Lamprecht, MMR	15	Dick Briggs, MMR	1
Jim Borcz	13	Matt Fisher	1
Jim Ruisinger	13	Peggy Doerflein	1
Dave Richter	11	Carter Jastram	1
Rick Brown	10	Darrell Logan	1
Mike Wolf, MMR	10	Ken McDonough	1
Jerry Hurt	8	Andrea McIntosh	1
Steve Hurt	8	William Morgan	1
Bill Alarie	4	Jim Oberst	1
David Evers	2	Jerry Severson	1
Doug Kullman	2	Greg Short	1
Bruce McDonald	2	Bruce Steinfurth	1

*Don't Just Belong,  
Participate!!*



## Continued: Contest Report

clearly showed us that we don't necessarily have to have a division meeting to hold a contest though it makes sense to do so. We also tried having members voting for their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices and that went better than expected. It didn't impact this contest but I can see it working out well in the future. It would greatly reduce the number of ties we usually seem to have. This way of voting will continue into and throughout 2021. The schedule for 2021 has been set plus I've got some ideas for a "wild card" to fill a possible void as well. All of us have cellphones with cameras, and most of those take pretty damn good pictures. Plus most all of us have, I'm sure, taken plenty of pictures over the years using either our phones or digital cameras while out railfanning and visiting layouts. So I gotta believe there are plenty of our members out there with photos suitable to enter into our contests. Take a look at the schedule for 2021 and go thru saved photo files or do a few railfan excursions. Let's see if we can double that number of participants from 2020!



1st Place Photo by Howdy Lamprecht

Direct any questions to: Contest Chairman, Jim Ruisinger. (614) 440-8962 [jimbo2490@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbo2490@yahoo.com)

## White Spirit Pin Wash Warning

Matt Goodman (Photos by Author)

Lately, I've been using a very thin wash of Lamp Black artists oils diluted with artist's White Spirits thinner. This works very well for accentuating details. See the door rollers, locking hardware, and door guides on the left side of the accompanying photo for an example.

However, it has a side effect of affecting the underlying Dullcote. The result is that subsequent layers of weathering powders stick differently wherever the White Spirits went. See the door slider, doorstep, and the door guide on the right side.

You can mitigate the negative effect with targeted (or over-the-top grimy) weathering. Or you can clean the whole thing and re-Dullcote. For new work, my approach will be to apply the pin wash before the initial Dullcote layer, or as the final step after other weathering layers are complete. Especially on large, flat areas like car sides. I'll also be revisiting alcohol (or other less-aggressive) pin washes. Other advice is welcome – I'm still learning!



White Spirit Pin Weathered NKP Car

# Just do it!

## 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 Emons, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision)

*Division 6 in Facebook:*

*NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]*

### Division 6 – 2021 Time Table

Date	Event	Meeting	City
10 Jan	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>Building Structures</i> , Frank Bongiovanni Virtual Photo Contest: Open Freight Car WITH Load	Zoom Video Call
14 Jan	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
21 Feb	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>Building Interiors</i> , Pat Hreachmack Virtual Photo Contest: Non-Revenue Car	Zoom Video Call
25 Feb	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
14 Mar	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>Detailing a Steam Locomotive</i> , Mike Wolf, MMR Virtual Photo Contest: Non-Steam Locomotive	Zoom Video Call
18 Mar	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
11 Apr	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Virtual Photo Contest: Rail Road Owned Line-Side Structure	Zoom Video Call
15 Apr	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
20-23 May	MCR Convention	<i>The Northern Express</i> - <b>Canceled</b>	Erie, PA
- May	Possible Virtual Contest	TBD	
19 Jun <b>Saturday</b>	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Virtual Photo Contest: Favorite Train	Marion (TBD)
23 Jun	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
- July	Possible Virtual Contest	TBD	
8 Aug	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Virtual Photo Contest: Rail Road Wrecks and Derelicts	TBD
12 Aug	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
12 Sept	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Virtual Photo Contest: Steam Locomotive	TBD
16 Sept	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
10 Oct	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Virtual Photo Contest: Cabooses	TBD
14 Oct	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
14 Nov	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Virtual Photo Contest: Closed Freight Car	TBD
18 Nov	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
12 Dec	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: <i>TBD</i> Virtual Photo Contest: Passenger Car	TBD
16 Dec	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		



## Why Wood Weathers the Way it Does

Matt Goodman (Photos by Author)

In November, I entered a photo of a weathered 36' Accurail double-sheathed boxcar. The caption read "A slightly worse-for-wear T&OC boxcar sits in the late afternoon sun at Corning, Ohio, in 1923."

A photo from the fantastic color collection of Jack Delano inspired the weathering on that car. The MILW car pictured had, among other things, a variety of dark vertical streaks. Some of the wood siding was staining or degrading faster than others. More interesting, different parts of the same board exhibited good and bad sections.

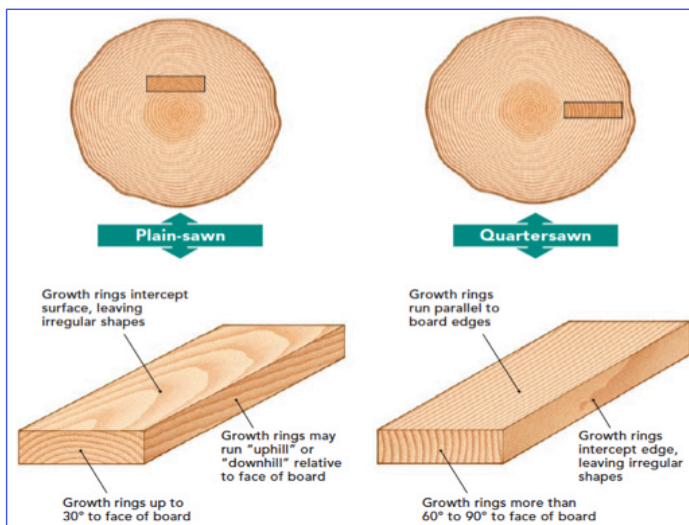


(1) MILW # 204439 – Photo by Jack Delano

By a lucky coincidence, a gentleman by the name of Andy Carlson, wrote about the processes behind this differential coloration a couple of weeks after that entry. If you are like me, understanding the "why" helps generate ideas on "how". An edited version of his description follows.

My interest in lumber has led me to examine photos of single sheathed freight cars critically. Unlike double sheathed cars, single sheathed cars usually did not have Tongue & Groove edges. Double sheathed cars not only had the T&G edges, but they were also commonly milled with a 'V' along the board's edge. This gave the characteristic finished look so attractive on both freight cars and passenger cars.

Logs milled into lumber start out as cylindrical. The mill saws



(2) Plain Sawn vs. Quarter Sawn (Google)

the logs into flat panels. The mill then saws the panels into individual boards. Sawing creates different styles of finished lumber depending on the location of this sawing relative to the circular ring pattern of the log. 'Vertical grain' or Quarter Sawn boards are where the tree rings, as viewed from the board's end, stand vertical. 'Plain Sawn' boards are where the ring grains run horizontally from side to side.

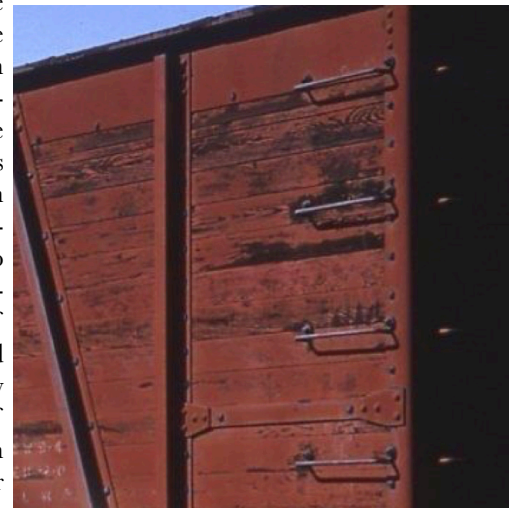
The favorite lumber to mill into Tongue & Groove was from old-growth trees. The darker forest made for minimal growth. This slower growth made for a much higher percentage of summer-wood. As any old carpenter will tell you, that kind of lumber is the best, especially when Quarter Sawn into vertical grain wood.

Returning to the differences between Plain Sawn and Quarter Sawn lumber. The face of the boards having the characteristic look of ovals and wavy lines are boards cut from the flat grain area of a slab at the mill. The ovals seen on the board are the rings exposed to the cut lumber. Since spring-wood is less strong, the flat grain on a board will have a higher percentage of weaker wood exposed to the weather.

I like to call attention to wood fence posts. Commonly beveled at the top to reduce the pooling of standing water, the tops of these boards clearly show the ring structure in the horizontal and circular view. After a few years, you will see that the areas within the rings will retreat downwards due to the softer spring wood's lower resistance to rot.

This same principle is at work on milled freight car siding. Since the common milling methods produce a mix of Plain Sawn and Quarter Sawn boards it was not uncommon for sheathing boards to also be a mix of mill cuts. After a few years, the boards with faces of predominantly Plain Sawn (spring-wood) will decay noticeably faster, as in the attached photo.

The difference between the boards with the paint intact vs. the boards with silvering weathering where the paint has flaked off is striking. The boards which are in between Plain Sawn and Quarter Sawn have ring patterns varying from within the two extremes. They also will have a variable amount of face spring-wood and will show slower rotting of the Plain Sawn wood but faster rot than the Quarter Sawn boards.



(3) Mix of Milling Types

**Why Wood Weathers Differently**  
Continued on page 9.



Continued: **Why Wood Weathers Differently**

And now you know. Since weathering the T&OC car, I've found a tool that makes it a bit easier to apply Pan Pastels to individual boards. That will make it easier to better simulate



(4) Lightly Weathered T&OC car

the effect in the lead photo in future weathering sessions. Oh, the same tool also works very well on running boards.

The tool is a “Colour Shaper” that I learned about in one of the NM-RAX videos. These are available in several con-

figurations – mine is a “Flat Chisel, Size 2”. I’m still working on methods, with an early attempt displayed nearby.



(5) Colour Shaper in use



### Clinic Updates

Thanks to Dick Briggs, MMR for providing more insight into how to obtain the Scenery AP. And thanks to Howdy Lamprecht, MMR for joining me (Mike Wolf, MMR) to provide a summary of our journey to Master Model Railroader. If you missed the meeting or would like to watch it again, you can find it at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BS4MzL\\_wC0kLeyBn3zi77BYvYOw46W5DL-CrfIJ6tkIUwdFDOPiYGSK5Ta9fY3Xj2.gfI9u2y9U9G-daj5](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BS4MzL_wC0kLeyBn3zi77BYvYOw46W5DL-CrfIJ6tkIUwdFDOPiYGSK5Ta9fY3Xj2.gfI9u2y9U9G-daj5)

Passcode: 0ZC\*%W+5

You'll find two videos at the link above. The first is the *Scenery AP* and the second is the *Road to MMR*.

In January, we have a guest speaker from Division 4 – Frank Bongiovanni. He will discuss building and scratch building structures for your layout. He will cover numerous techniques, materials, tools, tips, and tricks he has learned and used along the way. Audience participation is very much encouraged!

Pat Hreachmack will follow that in February with a discussion on constructing structure interiors. Included will be a discussion on techniques using photos, window coverings, lighting, and even mirrors.

I'm still in search of mini-clinics to add to an upcoming Scenery Extravaganza. 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](mailto: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 each to see which certificate your presentation qualifies for.

### Camera Quiz

Don Wilke

There was some discussion about the type of camera used to take the First and Second Place photographs in the December Virtual Contest. I found two different types of cameras took the two photographs. Let's call the two Camera A and Camera B.

Camera A was a Sony DSLR-A300, with a 4-second exposure, 50 mm focal length, ISO speed of 100, and f/22 setting.

Camera B was an Apple iPhone 11, with a 1/40-second exposure, 4.25 mm focal length, ISO speed of 400, and f/1.8 settings.

Take a look at the First and Second Place winners and answer the following: Was the First Place winner taken with Camera A or Camera B? Send an email with your result to me at: [SuperSignalEditor@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:SuperSignalEditor@div6-mcr-nmra.org).

## Modeling Tip of the Month – 1-2-3 Blocks and Rare Earth Magnets

Mike Wolf, MMR – Photos by Author

This month's modeling tip is about two modeling tools I've recently added to my toolbox. Matt Goodman discussed the use of machinist's 1-2-3 block previously in the *Super's Signal*. Based on a recent article in *Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine*, I decided to purchase both a pair of 1-2-3 blocks and a pack of six rare earth magnets. Last weekend, I put them to work on a resin kit I was building. It had less than perfect mitered corners and I planned on using epoxy cement (see photo). I'm now sold on these new tools!

1-2-3 blocks are normally used by machinists to calibrate their tools. The company machined them to very tight tolerances of 1x2x3 inches with square corners. Milled from steel they are fairly heavy. There are a couple of different styles available. I chose the version with only a single hole in the center since they were the cheapest. I was primarily planning to use them to square up corners or provide weight for items drying to prevent warping. (i.e. stained or painted strip lumber).

The other new "tool" I obtained from Amazon were six rare earth super magnets. They are just a little larger than a quarter and they aren't kidding when they say SUPER! They come packed with nylon sleeves between them to help get them apart. There is a warning to handle them gently as they are fragile (from Italy for all those A Christmas Story fans out there). Not heeding that warning, I now have 5 super magnets – one of them slipped from my grip and "reunited" itself with his buddies and cracked into a bunch of pieces. They look like they are stainless steel but trust me they aren't. Did I mention they are super strong? Don't let them slip back together without the disc between them or you will likely need to use some sort of tool to get them apart.

That said, they worked like a champ holding the wall pieces in perfect alignment while the epoxy set up. As you can see in the photo, the magnets are holding the right wall in place despite having almost a 1/4" of resin between it and the machinist's block.

The other "tool" in the photo is my granite tile. I picked it up several years ago at Lowes or Home Depot. It has a very smooth, level surface, cleans up easily if you get some paint or adhesive on it, and works great for keeping everything "on the level."

If you decide to add these tools to your toolbox for 2021, search rare earth magnet or 1-2-3 blocks in Amazon or your favorite retailer and you'll find several to choose from. The two blocks went for around \$17 and the six magnets \$11.



## Upcoming Election Information

Reported by Harry "Butch" Sage

Buckeye Division 6 Nominations Chair

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

This issue of the *Super's Signal* contains 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, Page-7. Cut it out and return it to the Nominations Chair postmarked by the 31st of March 2021. Make sure the mailing label is on the opposite side of the ballot. If the mailing address is NOT on the opposite side, your vote will not be counted. Remember, there will no NO in-person division meeting before the deadline.

Because of mailing costs, the mailed version will not contain all the information found in the on-line version of the *Signal*. Direct questions to the Nominations Chair.

## Candidates

### 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.

**Election Information**  
Continued on page 11.

### 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.

I am seriously looking forward to serving on our Division 6 Board of Directors.

### 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 Division 6. 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 Division 6 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 since then. I ran for Division 6 Director in 2011 when Division 6 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



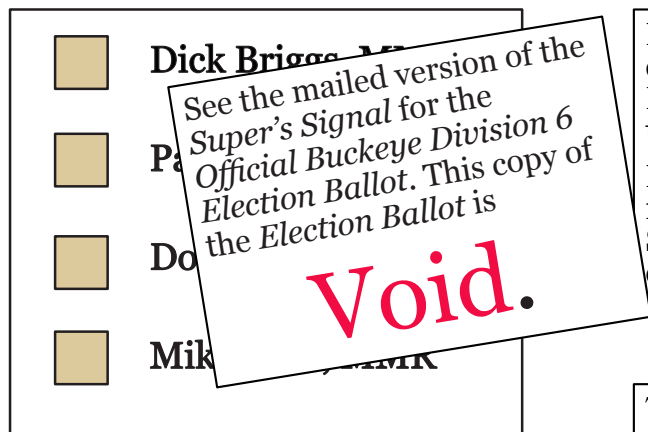
I am a lifelong model train enthusiast and have been a member of Division 6 since moving to Ohio 13 years ago. I have served as Director for the last three years. During that time, my focus has been in three areas: listening to the needs of the membership, expanding our membership and member retention 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.



# Official 2021 Buckeye Division 6 Election Ballot

## Division 6 Director Candidates (vote for no more than three)



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

Please vote for no more than **three** of the listed candidates to serve as Buckeye Division 6 Directors. All Directors will serve for a two-year term starting the last day in April.

Every voting member of Division 6 should receive a mailed copy of the *Super's Signal*. Some households may receive more than one copy of the *Super's Signal*.

The *Official Buckeye Division 6 Election Ballot* must be postmarked by the 31st of March 2021 and mail to:

Division 6 Inspector of Elections  
c/o Harry Sage  
2756 North County Line Road  
Sunbury, OH 43074-9603

### Continued: Clerk's Report

A discussion followed concerning lights, cameras, and settings used to take these photographs. Jim commented that the newer cell phones have really good cameras.

For 2020, thirty-one members submitted 142 photos, and Jim asked if we can double that for next year. The member submitting the photo needs to member who took it. One doesn't have to own the phone or camera, just be the one to take the picture with it.

**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 January 10 contest is **Open Freight Car With Load**. Members may enter photographs of models or prototype from now through Thursday January 7, 2021 at 10 p.m. Members may vote from January 8, 12:01 a.m. until January 9 at 6:00 p.m. The Contest Chair will announce the winners at the January 10 division meeting. There is currently no limit to the number of photos a person may enter. Remember, members may only enter photos taken by oneself.

### Good of the Order:

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:** The next Steering

Committee will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, December 17 at 8:00 p.m. Any division 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 6 meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting will open at 1 p.m.

### Adjournment:

Matt adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m., after a motion to adjourn by Mike, seconded by Don.

### Clinic:

Beginning at 2:22 p.m., Dick Briggs presented a clinic on achieving the *Master Builder Scenery AP Certificate*. Mike Wolf and Howdy Lamprecht followed with a joint clinic on *The Road to MMR*. Dick encouraged members to download and read through the various AP Certificate requirements from the NMRA website (I have just done so).

We express our appreciation to the clinicians and encourage anyone with an idea or an experience to talk with Mike Wolf about sharing a clinic at a future date.





## SUPER'S SIGNAL

Rich Brown Membership Chair  
7274 Nightshade  
Westerville, OH 43082

### Continued: **The Super's Report**

bolts of the Scenery AP, plus what he looks for when evaluating a scene, using examples from his railroad. Mike and Howdy focused on the paths they took to their MMR's. They covered which AP's they chose to pursue, and why, – and most importantly, what they learned in the process. Even if you aren't personally pursuing certificates, there was a lot to learn.

The division recorded the presentations. See Mike's article elsewhere in this issue of the *Signal* for links to both presentations.

On a final note, we keep all recordings available for a few months after the presentation of the meetings. Look for Mike's articles in back issues of the *Super's Signal* for links to those clinic recordings. You can find back issues here:

<https://archive.div6-mcr-nmra.org/Signal-20.html>

Time to drop the fire!



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



*Division 6 Email Group:*  
[NMRABuckeyeDivision@groups.io](mailto:NMRABuckeyeDivision@groups.io)