

# Super's Signal

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

March 2021

## Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Super

I have a long double-wide driveway that I share (and jointly maintain) with my neighbor of twenty-seven years. Part of that maintenance is clearing snow. Since our two houses box the driveway in for half of its length, that means we do a lot of snow pushing. Or when it's heavy, a lot of snow carrying! Whenever it snows a lot, as it did in the middle two weeks of February, I think of the vast amounts of snow the railroads have to move every year. Especially in high mountain crossings of the Rockies – including the fabled “Cascade Concrete”!

### National Election Reminder

The deadline for getting your vote in for the NMRA National Election is coming up fast. If you haven't submitted your Election Buddy vote or returned your physical ballot, you have until the end of the month to do so. See the NMRA's website for more detail and the candidate's statements:

<https://www.nmra.org/news/2021-board-directors-elections>

If you haven't gotten a ballot yet (email or mail), contact me immediately.

### Website Redesign

In March, probably after the next meeting, we will be emailing a nine-question Survey about the division's website. The purpose of the survey is to find out how you use the site and what you like about it. Or how you think we can improve it. Look for more information elsewhere in this edition of the *Signal*. [Page 11] - editor]

### February Zoom Meeting

I want to extend a thank-you to Patrick Hreachmack for his presentation on interior (and storefront and rooftop) details. I picked up a couple of things new-to-me. It's always fun to hear a presentation from someone who obviously enjoys the way they model.

## 14 March 2021 Division Meeting by Zoom Video Call

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

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

**1:30:** Business Meeting starts

**2:15:** (estimate)

Clinic: *Detailing a Steam Locomotive*, Mike Wolf, MMR

**Virtual Photo Contest:** Non-Steam Locomotive

Watch your email, or the Web Site for details, or contact Matt at

[Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)

Twenty-seven people (including one guest) tuned into the business meeting and Pat's clinic. Most of those stayed for some ad-hoc discussions before and after the “official” parts of the meeting. Those topics included applying photo backdrops and wireless cameras suitable for model railroads. Hopefully one or both of those will appear in this or a future *Super's Signal*. Don and I twisted some arms!

On the clinic front, Mike is looking for new or experienced talent. In my opinion, hearing the hobby ideas my peers have used or discovered is one of the best parts of my NMRA membership. If you have an idea, call Mike and pitch it. If we see an interesting topic come up in a discussion on the mailing list, we may suggest that you develop it into a mini or full-length clinic. Some love the spotlight and live audience of in-person meetings. While others (including me) find presenting via Zoom a bit less stressful. If the latter sounds like you, it's a good time to pitch your hat into the ring.

### Tip of the Hat

I want to extend a belated THANKS to Howdy Lamprecht, MMR, for offering to help with the Membership Retention

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Continued on page 4.

**Super's Signal Deadline**  
**18 March**

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

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

[Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)

**Division 6 Assistant Superintendent**

Dexter Hill:

[AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)

**Division 6 Clerk**

Carter Jastram:

[DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)

**Division 6 Pay Master**

Jim Borcz:

[Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)

**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

[Web\\_Master@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:Web_Master@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

**Super's Signal Pub.:** Don Wilke

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

**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

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**Clerk's Report**  
**Buckeye Division 6,**  
**Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.**  
**Virtual Division Meeting**  
**21 February 2021**  
*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

**Division 6 Chairpersons Present:**

Achievement Program	Dick Briggs, MMR
Contest	Jim Ruisinger
Groups.io	Jim Ruisinger
Inspector of Elections	Harry "Butch" Sage
Media	Rick Brown
Membership	Rick Brown
Programs	Dexter Hill / Mike Wolf, MMR
Raffle	Harry "Butch" Sage
<i>Super's Signal</i> Publisher	Don Wilke
Web Master	Don Wilke

**Absent:**

Company Store, Train Show	Greg Short
Director and Programs	Mike Wolf, MMR
Membership Retention	Bruce McDonald

**Announcements:**

Matt Goodman. Matt thanked Butch Sage for putting together and running the slide show during our 1:00 to 1:30 gathering time.

The NMRA Election deadline is coming up, so everyone please vote, if you haven't yet. If you haven't received a ballot by mail or email, contact Matt Goodman immediately.

The Division 6 website server is down. So the contest photos are not available for viewing during this afternoon's meeting.

**Reports:**

**Clerk's Report:** Carter Jastram. The membership approved the Clerk's Report, as published in the February 2021 *Super's Signal*, pp. 2-4.

**Paymaster's Report:** Jim Borcz. The membership approved the Paymaster's Report, pending audit.

In addition, Matt thanked Darrell Logan for providing address labels, and other work preparing and mailing the division meeting postcards.

**The Clerk's Report**  
Continued on [page 3](#).

**Program Locations/Clinics Report:** Dexter Hill. Rick shared a screen showing the clinic and meeting schedule between now and June. Dexter will call Pete White to reserve Marion Station for our division meeting on June 19. Jim Kehn announced the cancellation of the PRR Historical Society meeting until 2023. Mike Wolf needs clinics. Please contact him or Matt with a proposal. Details are in the *Super's Signal*.

**Achievement Report:** Dick Briggs. Dick reports that he expects to send an AP Certificate to Bill Connell soon for Electrical Engineer. Dick reminded division members to keep records of information and time spent toward Achievement Program Certificates.

**Webmaster's Report:** Don Wilke. The Division 6 website is down, and Don has been in touch with two companies. The website will be up again "soon"—whatever that means.

**Super's Signal Report:** Don Wilke. In the next issue of the *Super's Signal*, the hyperlinks will be in a pink box.

Due to the lateness of our division Meeting this month, the deadline for articles is this Wednesday, February 24.

**Groups.io:** Jim Ruisinger. Jim reports no changes in the number of members who are on Groups.io. One member who is continually bounced out of the group.io continues to rejoin. They are working to resolve that issue.

**Media Report:** Rick Brown. Rick reports correcting a few faulty email addresses, a few others are being chased down.

**Membership Report:** Rick Brown. Rick reports an increase for January to 162! There were 13 renewals; two rerails; and three new members, one of whom moved in from out of state. In response to a question, Rick reported that 29 of the 162 members are life members. A show of hands revealed about six or seven life members were attending today's meeting.

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

#### **Old Business:**

**Division 6 Website Survey:** Matt reports that he is almost ready to send out the website survey to the membership. He asked us to fill it out completely. Its aim is to redesign the website and to increase its attraction and ease of use. Matt suggested we gather ideas from younger people such as kids, grandkids, and neighbors.

#### **New Business:**

There was no new business to take up.

#### **Club Reports:**

**Delaware County Model Railroaders Group (Sunbury):** Rick Brown. The Sunbury Club is closed to the public, but we are welcome any time. They are going through a major layout rebuilding: urban area, industrial switching,

and agricultural area. They are setting up for operations, which they have not been able to do before now.

**Hocking Valley Model Railroad Club (Lancaster):** Dexter Hill. The Hocking Valley Club has been running its layout the last couple of weeks with a skeleton crew [and it's not even Halloween!]. Their situation is looking up.

**Janis Center Model Railroad Club (Columbus):** Pat Hreachmack. Pat reports that, after he checked on Friday, the Columbus City Council has made no decision whatsoever on the fate of the Martin Janis Center building or location. The club remains in limbo.

**Kokosing Model Railroad Club (Mt. Vernon):** Rick Brown. The Club ran under an operations scheme, and it went well. They plan to organize some joint operations with the Sunbury Club. They both share the Columbus, Akron, and Cleveland Railroad.

**Mill Creek Central Railroad (Coshocton, [MillCreekCentral.com](http://MillCreekCentral.com)):** Darrell Logan. Darrell reports that Mill Creek is adding 2500 feet of track.

**Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers Club (Medina, [neols.net](http://neols.net)):** Jim Borcz. Jim reports that the Live Steamers Club has posted a schedule on their website.

#### **Contest:**

**Virtual Photo Contest—MoW, Non-Revenue:** Jim Ruisinger. After the membership voted on 17 entries, Third Place went to Jim Oberst for his Fairmont Speeder. Second Place went to Mike Wolf for his Big Hook cleaning up a coal car derailment. First Place went to Bob Baker for his D&RGW Rotary Plow "OY" on a siding in Chama, NM. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks for another fine set of entries. Deciding how to vote was difficult.

**2020 Modeler of the Year:** Since there were only three model contests held in 2020, those points will be rolled over to 2021.

**2020 Photographer of the Year:** The award goes to Matt Goodman. Well done, Matt!

**March Virtual Photo Contest:** The March contest is Diesel, Diesel-Electric, and Electric Locomotives. This means any motive power that does not use steam or compressed air. Members may enter photographs of models or prototypes from now through Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 10 p.m. Members may vote from Friday, March 12, 12:01 a.m. through Saturday, March 13, at **9:00 p.m.** (new end time). Pick your three favorites and rank them first, second, and third. The Contest Chair will announce the winners at the Sunday, March 14, Division 6 Meeting. There is currently no limit to the number of photos a person may enter. Remember, a member may only enter photos taken by oneself.

**Thoughts on Future Contests:** Jim is giving thought to future contest structures in ways that will continue to invite much participation. He may divide the Photo

**The Clerk's Report**  
Continued on [page 4](#).

Continued: **Clerk's Report**

Contest into Photo—Model, and Photo—Prototype. But he does not want to return to such narrow categories as Photo—Tank Car, for example. See Jim's article elsewhere in this issue.

**Good of the Order:**

**Next Division 6 Membership Meeting:** The next Division 6 meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Sunday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting will open at 1 p.m.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:** The next Steering Committee meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 18, at 8:00 p.m. Any member may attend any Steering Committee meeting. Contact Superintendent Matt Goodman for the Zoom meeting link, if interested.

Continued: **The Super's Report**

and Recruitment Committee. This committee started in June 2018 with the purpose of brainstorming ways of improving both of the items in its name. The committee took a bit of a hiatus after the January 2020 World's Greatest Hobby Train Show (for obvious reasons). Until Mike Wolf, the only remaining original member, wanted to get it going again. Howdy immediately raised his hand to help.

Also deserving of a hat tip is the aforementioned Mike Wolf. Pat Hreachmack had a Digitrax question, which



Thanks to Patrick Hreachmack for sharing his tips, techniques, and experience in adding structure interiors and entertaining details to his layout. As Patrick pointed out, visitors to your layout will notice entertaining or realistic details you add. Take time to have fun. If you missed the meeting or would like to watch the clinic again, you can find it at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/s5k\\_aVOc0Vwir3uhQgyL4CYPn7W2TNGTl-C0NyLvQa6j2YDIxfDC5UaYxngRJNCe.m\\_C6AlpCg8r55GqG](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/s5k_aVOc0Vwir3uhQgyL4CYPn7W2TNGTl-C0NyLvQa6j2YDIxfDC5UaYxngRJNCe.m_C6AlpCg8r55GqG)

**Clinic Updates**

Tune in March for a clinic by yours truly on super detailing a steam locomotive. I'll discuss the research, materials, and tools used to take two basic Bowser steam locomotive kits into a National Contest Award Winners. In addition to providing tips in increasing AP scores, I'll explain was some of the do-thing-ies hanging on a steam locomotive.

Coming up in April, Rick Brown will discuss modeling *Prairie Sentinels* (grain silos).

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), 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.

**Adjournment:**

Matt adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m., after a motion to adjourn by Darrell Logan, seconded by Butch Sage [I think].

**Clinic:**

Beginning at 2:25 p.m., Patrick Hreachmack presented a clinic on Building Interiors, discussing the value, means, and humor of doing so. The division recorded the clinic and will be available for the next couple of months. A link to the video is published in the *Super's Signal* [see Clinic Updates below - editor].

We express our appreciation to Pat. We encourage anyone with an idea or an experience to talk with Mike Wolf about sharing a clinic at a future date—especially after June of this year.

eventually led to Zoom clinic on the topic, presented by Mike. He actually gave it twice, with something like twenty-five people attending. Thanks, Mike!

**Zoom Room For Rent**

As a reminder, the division's Zoom account is available to anyone who wants to use it for hobby-related purposes. Ask Rick Brown or me – or post to the Group-s.io list.

Time to drop the fire!

*Matt*

*Don't Just Belong, Participate!!*



### 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–MOW 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>Prairie Sentinels</i> , Rick Brown 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: (2) <i>TBD clinics</i> + <i>Scenery Extravaganza</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		

## Contest Report

*Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair*

### **“Virtual” Contest #2 February in Review**

Nice photos folks. We received some really nice photos for our February contest (Maintenance of Way and Non-Revenue Equipment). This month's contest had 17 photos entered by 14 different members. We Announced the top three vote recipients at our February 21st “Zoom” Division meeting. We posted them on the Division 6 Facebook Page and website. Once again, most 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 remind voting members to send their votes directly to the Contest Chairman and not the group. That keeps the element of anonymity in our contest voting.

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 March Photo contest will be for Diesel, Diesel-Electric, and Electric Locomotives, basically motive power that IS NOT steam or uses compressed air. You will be able to start submitting your photos now and they must be in by 10 pm, March 11 (Thursday). Remember, the member submitting the photos must have taken the photo. The photo can be of the prototype or a model.

Division members will be able to cast votes for your top three choices. Voting will be all day Friday the 12th and will

**Model:** None

**Photo:** Maintenance of Way and Non-Revenue Equipment

**1st Place:** Bob Baker, *D&RGW Rotary ‘OY’ in the yard at Chama, New Mexico*

**2nd Place:** Mike Wolf, *The ‘Big Hook’ cleaning up another derailment on the WVU RR*

**3rd Place:** Jim Oberst, *Fairmont Speeder*

end at **9 pm** on March 13th. You're getting' three extra hours to vote so yes, this is a change!!! We will announce the top three vote recipients at our Zoom Division meeting on March 14th.

Some members have indicated that when they click on the “email the contest chairman” button on the website, nothing happens. Or it prompts you to install Outlook on your computer. Don seems to think it's a Windows problem. My thinking is there are so many different email providers out there (yahoo, AOL, Gmail, Outlook, etc.) that it may be largely dependent on who you use for email. IF the website link won't work for you, simply send your votes to my email: [Jimbo2490@yahoo.com](mailto:Jimbo2490@yahoo.com).

I will start listing the cumulative point standings for ‘Photographer of the Year’ after our March meeting. Hopefully, we'll be able to get back to in-person meetings so we can have a ‘Modeler of the Year’ as well.

Direct any questions to: Contest Chair, Jim Ruisinger. (614) 440-8962 [Jimbo2490@yahoo.com](mailto:Jimbo2490@yahoo.com)



*1st Place Photo by Bob Baker (Copyrighted by Photographer)*

## Membership End of the Month Report

*Rick Brown, Membership Chair*

### Summary

The new year report from the National NMRA headquarters brought some good news to Division 6. From last February through December, membership has been dropping. Pandemic? Just didn't send in dues? We don't know any reasons, but the facts are there. For the first time in many months, the membership numbers increased.

Two members who had fallen into the "past member" category were re-railed. However, two members fell into that "past member" category. Here comes the good news. Thirteen members renewed their membership. The really good news: two new members joined! And an active NMRA member moved their residence into Division 6.

Please help me welcome **Charlie Sauter** and **Chris Scott** who have joined. Also, let's welcome new to Division 6 but not the NMRA **Marvin Schroeder**. We would love to see you all jump on the next Zoom monthly meeting. I would be happy to introduce you.

Also, there is ongoing work cleaning up email addresses, missing email addresses, and other details. If you are not getting MAILCHIMP emails from Division 6, or if you are not getting emails from the National office, please reach out to me. I am happy to assist. If you want to be on the more frequent email round-robin chain for Groups.io, Jim R. is your guy for that.

Also, another reminder of the Division 6 member voting that is currently open, closing at the end of March for the Board of Director positions. This is a MAIL vote only. Butch is your guy to help on that one.

### Active Members (end of the month):

January '21	162	January '20	168
December '20	158	December '19	165
November '20	159	November '19	169
October '20	160	October '19	167

**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)

January saw **thirteen** members renew their membership. We had two members were rerailed. We had two members fall into the past member category. There are also a large number of members who are up for renewal between now and Spring.

### 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

### Notes and Commentary

You've no doubt heard of the Briggs Myers test, the Carl Jung Personality Test or the Big 5 test. These are all tests to measure your weaknesses, your personality traits or how you might function under pressure. The one that I found most accurate, most positive, and most helpful (at work) is the Gallup Strengths Finder test.

This testing tool was used twice at the company where I am currently employed, and as a manager, I found the results very helpful. Strengths Finder determines the top five traits that are your make up, with the idea that you build on those strengths to further your reach, or maybe your career. And, by having other know and understand your

strengths, you can bring more to the party with your stronger points. The same works (as a manager) in understanding all of your colleagues' strengths. It stands to reason that certain people respond to certain situations better than others, or have a better chance at envisioning a certain solution or approach to a challenge.

I took this test on two separate occasions, about five years apart. Not surprisingly, the same strengths appeared for me each time. My top five were Context, Learner, Input, Maximizer, and Ideation. As I reread the corollary for the traits, I found that the system had me about right. And I found the same for my colleagues and reports. I also think it has some

**Membership Report**  
Continued on [page 11](#).



## NMRA Standards in Trackwork

Mike Wolf, MMR – Photos by Author

While some may not consider it a “benefit” of membership (since non-members benefit from it also), however, NMRA standards ensure a wide range of interoperability within our hobby. One standard which is sometimes not complied with by commercial track suppliers is the flangeway width in turnouts and crossings. This month I’ll show how I brought an Atlas crossing within tolerances and improved operations on my layout.

**Photo 1** shows the crossing in question. It is an older Atlas code 100 crossing. I doubt they have changed much over the years (at least their code 100 line) but this also applies to the guardrails found abeam the frog on turnouts. Why is the width of the flangeway important? If it is too narrow, the inside edge of the wheels will rub against it and potentially derail a wheelset. Conversely speaking, if it is too wide (usually the problem on commercial turnouts) the wheels can drift over into the opening at the frog or crossing and catch the tip of the frog (or diamond in the case of the trackwork in this article). This can lead to aggravating derailments. It won’t happen with every car or on every pass but to me, one derailment is too many when visitors (or operators) are in the basement watching trains run.

The NMRA Standards can be found on the [NMRA website](#). For trackwork, S-3.2 applies. **Photo 2** shows an excerpt from the standard. For HO scale, the flangeway should be between 0.050-0.035 inches. As **Photo 3** shows, the flangeway is 0.06” wide.

The repair is made using styrene strip. A piece of 0.010 x 0.060 or 0.020 x 0.060 inch styrene (as shown in **Photo 4**) is applied along the guardrail to narrow the gap. A 0.01 x 0.06 may be used depending in how wide the gap is. 0.06 inches is very close to the rail height for Atlas’ code 100 track. The Standards Gauge is used in **Photo 5** to ensure the flangeway is within tolerances. CA glue was applied along the guardrail and the styrene held in place. I used a little CA Zip fluid to help cure the CA around the bends at the end of the guardrails. I just used one long strip and then used a hobby knife was used to shave any styrene extending above the existing guardrail and track. I then cut away the excess at the ends and for the crossing. **Photo 6** shows the final product. I’ll apply a little paint and weathering to hide the white styrene.

If you are having derailment problems around a turnout or crossing, grab your trusty NMRA Standards Gauge and check the various clearances (points, flangeways and track gauge). If the guardrails are out of spec, this technique could help reduce derailments and increase your enjoyment running the railroad. Better yet, take the time to check your trackwork BEFORE you install it (if you are building new). It is a lot easier to correct on the workbench than it is on the back corner of the layout!



Photo 1. This Atlas code 100 crossing has excessively wide flangeways that can (and have) led to derailments when the wheels drift and “catch” the diamond. The FLANGEWAYS side of the NMRA Standards Gauge clearly shows the flangeways are too wide.



**STANDARD**

© NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Standard	S-3.2
Title	Scale Track, Standard Scale
Version	February 2010
Page	1 of 3



The Span, S, is derived by knowing S = C-F. C is the primary controlling dimension.

		Standard S3.2 Guarded using Target and Asymmetric Imperial (inch) Tolerance																
Scale	Scale Ratio	G			C			S			F			P			H	Wheel
		Gate at Frog			Check Gate			Span			Flangeway			Points				
		Target	Plus	Minus	Target	Plus	Minus	Target	Plus	Minus	Target	Plus	Minus	Target	Plus	Minus		
1"	1:12	4.752	0.060	0.002	4.586	0.011	0.004	4.366	0.004	0.002	0.218	0.002	0.065	4.561	0.004	0.004	0.140	1/2"
3/4"	1:16	3.502	0.038	0.002	3.353	0.014	0.004	3.172	0.004	0.002	0.179	0.002	0.046	3.325	0.004	0.004	0.094	13/32"
F	1:20.3	2.783	0.014	0.002	2.683	0.013	0.004	2.583	0.013	0.004	0.096	0.004	0.006	2.656	0.004	0.004	0.084	284
Fn3	1:20.3	1.772	0.010	0.006	1.652	0.010	0.004	1.550	0.005	0.015	0.115	0.002	0.023	1.628	0.004	0.004	0.066	250
Large Scale Standards on Separate Page																		
O	1:48	1.252	0.012	0.002	1.181	0.013	0.002	1.102	0.002	0.002	0.077	0.002	0.021	1.156	0.002	0.004	0.045	145
On3	1:48	0.752	0.012	0.002	0.707	0.010	0.002	0.654	0.002	0.002	0.051	0.002	0.016	0.685	0.002	0.004	0.026	116
On30	1:48	0.651	0.010	0.002	0.607	0.007	0.002	0.557	0.002	0.002	0.048	0.002	0.013	0.588	0.002	0.004	0.025	110
On2	1:48	0.502	0.009	0.002	0.457	0.007	0.002	0.407	0.002	0.002	0.048	0.002	0.012	0.438	0.002	0.004	0.025	110
S	1:54	0.855	0.010	0.002	0.841	0.007	0.002	0.791	0.002	0.002	0.048	0.002	0.013	0.822	0.002	0.004	0.025	110
Sn3	1:54	0.565	0.010	0.002	0.521	0.007	0.002	0.471	0.002	0.002	0.048	0.002	0.013	0.502	0.002	0.004	0.025	110
Sn2	1:54	0.415	0.008	0.002	0.379	0.004	0.002	0.339	0.002	0.002	0.038	0.002	0.008	0.363	0.002	0.004	0.023	88
OO	1:76.2	0.752	0.009	0.002	0.707	0.007	0.002	0.657	0.002	0.002	0.048	0.002	0.012	0.688	0.002	0.004	0.025	110
HO	1:87.1	0.651	0.010	0.002	0.607	0.007	0.002	0.557	0.002	0.002	0.048	0.002	0.013	0.588	0.002	0.004	0.025	110

Photo 2. Excerpt of NMRA Standard S-3.2 for standard scale trackwork. The tolerances for HO flangeways is highlighted in blue.



Photo 3. The flangeway is approximately 0.06" (the width of the styrene strip used to bring the guardrail distance within specs).

**NMRA Standards in Trackwork**  
Continued on [page 9](#).



Continued:  
**NMRA Standards in Trackwork**

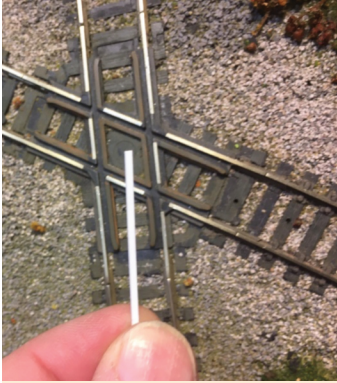


Photo 4. A piece of strip styrene is used to narrow the gap. A strip of 0.02 x 0.06 inch styrene is shown.



Photo 5. A quick check using the Standards Gauge shows a 0.02" wide strip of styrene will bring the gap to within tolerances.



Photo 6. After the CA glue has cured a little paint and weathering and you'll never know the styrene was added. The crossing route is a dummy track so I didn't bother repairing to those guardrails.

## Contest Conversation

### Modeler and Photographer of the Year for 2020

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

In the January *Super's Signal* we listed the Final Standings for both **Modeler of the Year** and **Photographer of the Year**. 2020 was an unusual year and unlike any we have experienced in our lifetime. We ended up with only three in-person division meetings at which we were able to hold a model contest. But our Virtual Photo Contests really took off and were quite successful. Even holding a few Photo Contests in months we traditionally haven't held meetings.

Since 2020's quarantine allowed us only three model contests, the BOD has decided not to give a **Modeler of the Year Award** at this time. We hope that we will be able to resume in-person gatherings later this year. With that said, IF we can get in enough model contests this year, we will roll over 2020's points. Then combine them with 2021's points to make for a **Modeler of the Year for 2020-2021**. The Contest Committee and BOD will be re-evaluating the situation probably mid-year, on the prospect of resuming in-person meetings. A minimum number, of model contests is being considered to allow for a **Modeler of the**

**Year Award**. Below are the final standings for **Photographer of the Year**. We listed the monetary awards for the top three finishers.

#### Final Standings – Photographer of the Year for 2020

(Eleven Photo Contests)

Matt Goodman \$50

Don Wilke \$25

Harry 'Butch' Sage \$10

With all the uncertainty of how things are going to go this year, we felt that the policy as outlined is the fairest way to go. If you have any questions, feel free to drop a note to Superintendent Matt Goodman at

[Super@Div6\\_MCR\\_NMRA.org](mailto:Super@Div6_MCR_NMRA.org)

or the Contest Chairman Jim Ruisinger at

[Jimbo2490@yahoo.com](mailto:Jimbo2490@yahoo.com).

## Division 6 Director Candidates



Dick Briggs. MMR



Pat Hreachmack



Donald Wilke



Mike Wolf, MMR

Remember to VOTE by 31 March. Or better yet, VOTE now!

**Super's Signal**

March

## Book Review

*Union Pacific's Big Boys*

The complete story from history to restoration

Kalmbach Media

Matt Goodman

I have a long history with the Big Boy. It was one of the biggest reciprocating steam locomotives ever built. It was also the biggest/best locomotive that caught every kid's attention. In my case, that led to AHM/Rivarossi's model being the first locomotive I purchased with my own money. I still remember the day 10-year-old me put one on layaway at Hall's Hobbies with \$10 down.

Much more recently, my dad, brother, and I chased #4014 in May 2019 on her maiden-trip from Cheyenne to Ogden. That was the Sesquicentennial celebration of the Transcontinental Railroad's completion. That was a wonderful trip that I wrote about in the November 2019 *Super's Signal*.

I've collected a few publications to remember that event. When Kalmbach's new 224-page book *Union Pacific's Big Boys* came out, I gave the Train Station a call and ordered it. I opted for the softcover version, which retails for \$29.99. A hardcover version is also available for \$43.99. Both are available via the Kalmbach Store or your local hobby retailer.

I didn't read much about the book before receiving it, other than knowing it would cover the restoration and the history of the Big Boy class. I assumed this would all be new content. So I was a little surprised at the contents when I picked it up. Other than the restoration parts, most of the book was not new content. Instead, it was a compilation of previously published Kalmbach magazine stories. As it turned out, this was not a bad thing because that "old" content was good stuff!

The book starts by covering a general history of the locomotive. It included information on why Union Pacific built the Big Boy. The book includes some excellent maps of where the Big Boy ran and an introductory "how a steam locomotive works" section. The latter was well done, concise, and not overly simplified.

The middle section of the book is more technical in nature, covering the development of articulated locomotives (including comparisons between simple and compound types), the "Superpower" steam locomotive concepts and history, and a comparison of the "biggest" steam locomotives (weight, horsepower, etc.).



This section contained my favorite chapter, called "Big Boy Impressions", written by Trains Magazine editor David P. Morgan. Mr. Morgan is widely regarded as an excellent writer, and this chapter illustrated that. He opens and ends the chapter by describing a cab ride between Cheyenne and Laramie in an incredibly captivating way. There's real magic in the ability to put sounds into your head via words, but he does it very well. Between these two points, the chapter covers what operating men thought about the type, the locomotive's reason for being, and well-described development and technical details. The most evocative photos are also in Mr. Morgan's chapter.

The last section of the book covers "modern" times from how the Union Pacific Steam Crew chose #4014 for restoration and got it from California to Cheyenne, the subsequent restoration, and its dash to Ogden in 2019. The book closes with descriptions of each of the Big Boys in preservation and some fantastic photos.

In the end, I think there are a couple of audiences for this book. Big Boy and Union Pacific fans are one, of course. Those who have a more general interest in steam development and deployment will also find it a good read. The book writes about Superpower and articulation more extensively in other books. The treatment given to them in this book is concise and very well done.

For \$30, this book is a bargain, in my opinion.

*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]*

## Website Survey Coming Soon

Matt Goodman

Division 6's leadership needs your help. We are looking to make updates to our division website. For this, we will be issuing a survey to gather division member input.

### How Do I Take the Survey, and What is its Purpose?

We will survey the members through a service we have used in the past - SurveyMonkey (no relation to MailChimp).

To take the survey, you will simply need to click a link that will be available via the **Groups.io mailing list**, the **MailChimp email**, and the **April Super's Signal**.

I've touched on the goals for the website updates in past Superintendent's Reports. To refresh your memory, they fall under four categories:

- Ease of use and navigation for visitors (members and the public)
- Modernizing the design
- Ease of maintenance
- Providing a framework for additional future functionality

The first two are things that our members (and the public) see every time they visit the site. The latter two are more "IT" type changes, with some future-proofing built-in.

### What's in the Survey?

The survey is nine questions long. It is a mix of multiple-choice, ranking, and free-form answers (i.e., write what

you want). To get you thinking about this, here's a preview of nine of the questions – some may change:

1. How often do you use Division 6's website? (Choose one)
2. How visually appealing is our website? (Choose one)
3. How easy is it to find what you were looking for on our website? (Choose one)
4. What improvements would you make to the design or function of our website? (Comment box)
5. How do you usually get to the Division 6 website? (Choose one)
6. What pages of the Division's website do you use most often? (Rank a list of seven pages)
7. Do you find the information on the main page helpful in deciding to attend a meeting? (Yes/No/Comment box)
8. Besides the Division's site, what other informational websites/blogs (i.e., they don't sell anything) do you use and like? (Comment box)
9. Thinking about your answer to the previous question, what about the website do you like? (Comment box)

Take your time filling it out, especially the comments. We look forward to your thoughts.

Continued:

### Membership Report

rich connection to my model railroading habits. Since Context was my #1 strength, it makes sense that history is a big interest for me. Learner, Ideation....if you know me, that fits.

What would be your model railroader (and maybe your personality) strengths? Want to see the list? Google "Clifton Strengths Themes". Once you understand the Talent DNA you possess....how might you leverage that?

It might alter how you look at your modeling. Or maybe your interaction with your layout. Or your club. Or your Division 6 involvement.

So, what is the end of this story? We need your Talent DNA here in Division 6. Mike needs you to share your skills in clinics or the Extravaganza. We need more participants in the model and photo contests. Volunteer for projects. Help another railroader whose DNA is different. Leverage your strengths. Your involvement in any of this makes the model railroader journey more fun.

