

Super's Signal

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

April 2021

Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Super

The website is in the news – for more than one reason!

Outage

On February 21st, our website went down due to an issue with the name server. The result was that no one could access the site. Outages are never welcome. The timing, in this case, was especially bad given it occurred right before our meeting started as we were gathering the photos for the contest winners. As division members email their photographs Don puts them on the website. Once voting concludes, I download the winning photos for the slideshow on Sunday morning.

With the meeting underway, Jim and Don successfully executed a behind-the-scenes scramble to gather the winning photos from various email exchanges. They then forwarded them to me to build the slide show between agenda items. Teamwork! It's also the last time I wait until Sunday to create the slideshow.

The fix for the website took quite a bit longer. Don spent four days working with tech support from both GoDaddy and Hosting.com. These are the two companies that host various components for our website. They had to identify the problem and get the site back up. That included removing all our web pages from Hosting.com and re-uploading them. Fortunately, Don keeps a copy of the website on his computer. It took a while to get the confusing and conflicting interactions to get a DNS nameserver technical change changed. In a nutshell, it was a lot of work!

For getting that issue resolved, I want to extend a hearty THANKS to Don for his persistence in getting us up and running again. Model Railroading attracts people with a wide range of expertise, and luckily, we have the right guy for this particular rabbit hole!

Super's Signal Deadline
15 April

11 April 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: *Prairie Sentinels*, Rick Brown

Virtual Photo Contest: Rail Road Line-Side Structure

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

Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Survey

I wrote last month about a Website Survey. By the time you read this, we will have sent you an invitation to the survey via MailChimp. For more details on the survey, see my article on page 11 of last month's *Signal* (https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org/SuperSigFold/21C_Signal.pdf).

The survey should take about fifteen minutes to fill out. There are only nine questions; however, about half ask for free-form thoughts. Please take all the time you need to answer in detail – your comments will impact what is – or isn't – done to the website.

I will leave the survey open for a couple of weeks. If you don't get the MailChimp with the survey link, contact me by email at Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org or the Groups.io mailing list.

March Zoom Meeting

We had 38 people attend our March meeting, our best meeting attendance since our last in-person meeting one year ago!

Eight of the attendees were

The Super's Report
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DIVISION 6 OFFICERS**Division 6 Superintendent**

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

Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Assistant Superintendent

Dexter Hill:

AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Clerk

Carter Jastram:

DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Division 6 Pay Master

Jim Borcz:

Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Directors

Dick Briggs, MMR

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf, MMR:

Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Appointed Division 6 Chairs

A list of Division 6 Chairs can be found at:

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

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

Web Master: Don Wilke

Web_Master@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Super's Signal Pub.: Don Wilke

SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Division 6 Web Site:

www.div6-mcr-nmra.org

Mid Central Region President:

Bob Weinheimer

president@midcentral-region-nmra.org

NMRA Central District Director:

Robert Beaty, MMR

Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke
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Clerk's Report
Buckeye Division 6,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Virtual Division Meeting
3.14 (Pi Day)
Carter Jastram, Clerk

Call to order

The Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Matt Goodman, Division 6 Superintendent, at 1:29 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

Rick Brown

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 Goodman.

Pre-meeting Slide Show: Matt thanked **Butch Sage** for putting together and running another pre-meeting slide show.

Web-Site: A big Thank You to Don Wilke for putting the time into solving website problems last month!

Life Members: Matt apologized for making an offhand remark last month.

Steering Committee Meetings: Steering Committee Meetings are open to the division Membership. The division holds them on the third Thursday of each month. The seven Division 6 Officers and all attending Committee Chairs comprise the Steering Committee. Only the seven Division 6 Officers have a vote [but they are good listeners].

Photo Contest Entries: Matt posted a link to the Photo Contest entries in the Zoom Chat so that the members may view them during the meeting.

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

Reports:

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

Paymaster's Report: Jim Borcz. Jim reported our financial status as of February 28. He successfully used the Division 6 Debit Card to pay for a recent contest plaque. Rick will provide Jim with contact information to follow up on a check that has not yet cleared the account. The membership approved the Paymaster's Report, pending audit.

Program Locations: Dexter Hill. Dexter reported we will hold our Division 6 meetings on April 11 and May 16 via Zoom. We plan to meet in Marion on June 19 (second new date), as long as we can gather.

Program Clinics Report: Mike Wolf. Rick Brown will present a clinic on *Prairie Sentinels* [Grain Elevators] on April 11. On May 16 Matt Goodman will present *Using Building Mockups* as an aid to model railroad planning. For June 19, Mike is coordinating a day full of clinics with two full-length clinics and another **SCENERY EXTRAVAGANZA** full of short scenery clinics. Matt said to add his clinic on *Track Detailing* to the list. If you want to present a clinic, contact Mike Wolf. And as always, watch the *Super's Signal* for the details.

Achievement Report: Dick Briggs. At Dick's request, Bill Connell held up to his camera his recently received AP Certificate and Merit Award for Electrical Engineer. Congratulations, Bill! Matt asked Bill to send some photographs so the members could see his progress.

Dick reminded division members to keep records of information and time spent toward Achievement Program Certificates.

Webmaster's Report: Don Wilke. After Don worked with two different companies, he reports that the Division 6 website is now about 98% viable. If a member finds a faulty link or page, please report it to Don.

Don has placed a link for the January meeting at the bottom of the Division 6 website Welcome Page. His goal is to have links to the previous three months located on the Welcome Page. Recordings will open in one's own video player.

Don will post today's contest winners on the division website and also in the April *Super's Signal*. Links are on the Division 6 Welcome Page.

Super's Signal Report: Don Wilke. Don thanks the members for their early submission of their materials for the March *Super's Signal*. Because the February meeting was late in the month the time to prepare the March issue was shorter than usual.

The deadline for articles to the April issue of the *Super's Signal* is this Thursday, March 18.

Groups.io: Jim Ruisinger. Jim reports that our groups.io

group is stable. The email provider of one member is still occasionally sending a groups.io message to spam, and the member continues to rejoin the group afterward. If any member requests to join the groups.io group, Jim will send an invitation.

Ken McDonough thanked the division for all the tips and advice he received through groups.io concerning his question about benchwork. It was valuable and appreciated. Don suggested writing a short article for the *Super's Signal* about the value of using groups.io in this way.

John Gafney requested, and Jim Ruisinger confirmed, that if a person wishes to share a new topic, then they would start a new email, and not piggyback onto an existing stream.

Media Report: Rick Brown. Thirty-eight people attended today's division Zoom meeting, which pleased Rick. It appears to be an all-time high.

Membership Report: Rick Brown. Our numbers are positive again, at 168. Another member moved in, and there were two derails and one rerailer.

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

Elections Inspector Report: Butch Sage. Butch urges anyone who has not yet voted in Division 6 or National Elections to do so. The Division 6 election deadline is March 31. If you need a ballot, contact Butch.

Old Business:

Division 6 Website Survey: Matt Goodman. Matt will send out the website survey in the next couple of days. There are nine questions. Matt requests us all to answer thoughtfully. He would like a broad range of input, especially from outside the Division 6 Membership for different viewpoints.

Future Activities: Darrell Logan. Darrell suggests a Division 6 Dinner Train excursion. There are several possibilities to consider.

Train Show: Mike Wolf. In response to a member's question, Mike Wolf replied that the date of October 17, 2021, has been set, but there is no final decision yet. The Steering Committee will discuss this. Dexter felt that if attending Marion in person (June 5) works out, then October should work, too.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

Club Reports:

Central Ohio Model Railroad Club (COMRC, Columbus, www.comrc.club): Bill Alarie. Bill reported that the City of Worthington and the Worthington Recreation Center are requesting assistance in caboose restoration. Contact the COMRC for details. [This is likely the C&O caboose that sat for decades behind a house on the north side of Highland Drive, just east of Kenny Rd. The previous owners maintained it well.—Clerk.]

The Clerk's Report
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Continued: **Clerk's Report**

Hocking Valley Model Railroad Club (Lancaster): Dexter Hill. The Hocking Valley Club started operating on Saturdays with very limited attendance.

Contest:

Virtual Photo Contest—Non-Steam Locomotives: Jim Ruisinger. Jim reported another set of eighteen excellent entries.

Third Place: Jim Ruisinger for *Ohio Central # 6313*.

Second Place: Dick Briggs for his *On2-1/2 Mine Engine*. Dick built it in 1988-1989 in York, PA. It took First Place in Traction at the Madison National Convention, earning about 119+ points.

First Place: Howdy Lamprecht for *Alco C420 D&H # 404, renumbered OGRR # 410* and weathered with pan pastels.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to the membership for the fine entries. Jim has a folder full of certificates to hand out when we meet in person.

The April contest is photographs of *Lineside Railroad-Owned Structures* (and used by the Railroad). Members may enter photographs of models or prototypes from now through Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 10 p.m. Members may vote from Friday, April 9, 12:01 a.m. until Saturday, April 10 at 9:00 p.m. The Contest Chair will announce the winners at the April 11 Division 6 meeting. There is currently no limit to the number of photos a person may enter. Please remember, a member may only enter photos taken by oneself.

Continued: **The Super's Report**

guests. Most of those were Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society (PRRT&HS) members. Jim Kehn invited them to watch Mike Wolf's Steam Locomotive Detailing clinic that focused on a PRR locomotive. Mike did his clinic in his typical fashion – well organized and illustrated. You can find the link to a recording of his clinic elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

Another guest was Division 4's Superintendent, Lee Sheffield. I typically send out our meeting information to our Region's officer and Superintendent mailing list. Lee decided to drop in to see how we do things in

June 5 Model Contest—Favorite Train: Since we are currently planning to meet in person at Marion on June 5, Jim is also planning to hold the Favorite Train model contest. The points earned from the three contests held in 2020 will count toward the total points earned in 2021.

Good of the Order:

Next Steering Committee Meeting: The next Steering Committee meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 18, 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, April 11, at 1:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting will open at 1 p.m.

Visitors and Guests:

Matt welcomed a variety of visitors and guests who attended today's meeting

Adjournment:

Matt adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m., following a motion and a second to adjourn.

Clinic:

Mike Wolf offered his clinic on *Super Detailing a Steam Locomotive Kit*, beginning at 2:17 p.m. It was thorough and informative. If you missed it, a link to the recording will be available on the Division 6 website and in the *Super's Signal*.

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

Division 6. People sometimes mention that virtual meetings allow for casting a wider net for recruiting clinicians. However, the same applies the other way around. Any individual member can visit other division meetings as a guest to see what goes on there!

Like Lee, I've occasionally dropped in on other's meetings. In fact, I've been to more "foreign" meetings in the past four months than in the previous seven years I've been a member. I always learn something new – even if it's just someone's name!

Time to drop the fire!



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> - Canceled	Erie, PA
- May	Possible Virtual Contest	TBD	
19 Jun Saturday	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <i>TBD</i> Clinic: (2) <i>TBD clinics & Scenery Extravaganza</i> (<i>Building Tunnels</i> , Darrell Logan; <i>Making Trees</i> , Darrell Logan; <i>Roads Using Grout</i> , Howdy Lamprecht, MMR; <i>Oak Leaf Hydrangea Trees</i> , Mike Wolf, MMR; <i>Hillsides of Trees</i> , Mike Wolf, MMR; <i>Track Detailing</i> , Matt Goodman) 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 #3 March in Review

Our Division meeting on March 14th had 18 great photos entered. Photos included traditional Diesel Electrics, one Diesel, two electrics, and one that was Battery-powered. We announced the top three vote recipients at our March 14th “Zoom” Division meeting. We posted them on the Division 6 Facebook Page and website. We remind voting members to send their votes directly to the Contest Chair 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. Rumor has it, might be in June up at the Marion Depot. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our April contest will mark the one-year anniversary of holding “Virtual Photo Contests”. Some were initially skeptical on how successful holding contests this way would work out. I think it’s very safe to say that participation was better than any of us could have imagined. Our subject matter for the April meeting is “Lineside / Online Railroad-Owned Structures”. This includes things like Engine and Roundhouses, Stations, Switch and Interlocking Towers, Water Tanks, Coaling Towers, Sanding Structures, Handcar Sheds, etc. If in doubt or you have any questions, contact the Contest Chair, Jim Ruisinger

You can start submitting your photos now, but they must be

Model: None

Photo: Non-Steam Locomotive

1st Place: Howdy Lamprecht, *Olive Grove Alco C420 #410 ex-Delaware & Hudson*

2nd Place: Dick Briggs, *Battery-powered mining engine*

3rd Place: Jim Ruisinger, *Ohio Central FP-9 #3313 in Pennsy Tuscan 5-stripe “Heritage” paint*

in by 10 pm, Thursday, April 8th. Remember, the member submitting the photos must have taken the photo. The photo can be of the prototype or a model. You will be able to cast votes for your top three choices. Voting will be all day Friday the 9th and will end at 9 pm on Saturday, April 10th. We will announce the top three vote recipients at our Zoom Division meeting on April 11th.

Some members have indicated that when they click on the “email the contest chair” button on the website, nothing happens. Or it prompts you to install Outlook on your computer. If that happens, simply send your votes to my email: Jimbo2490@yahoo.com.

Cumulative point standings for ‘Photographer of the Year’ are elsewhere in the Signal. Direct any questions to:

Contest Chair, Jim Ruisinger.
(614) 440-8962 Jimbo2490@yahoo.com



1st Place Photo by Howdy Lamprecht (Copyright by Photographer)

Contest Point Summary March 2021

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

Modeler 2020–2021

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 2021

Steve Hurt	6	Richard Matejovic	3
Howdy Lamprecht, MMR	6	Dave Richter	3
Bob Baker	5	Harry Sage	3
Don Wilke	5	Jerry Hurt	2
Mike Wolf, MMR	5	Doug Kullman	2
Dick Briggs, MMR	4	Matt Goodman	2
Jim Ruisinger	4	Jim Oberst	2
Bill Alarie	3	Jim Borcz	1
John Gafney	3	Bruce Steinfurth	1



Clinic Updates

During the March virtual meeting, I hosted a clinic on *Super Detailing a Steam Locomotive*. In addition to describing the materials and techniques used, I also described all the various appliances hanging on the typical locomotive. I also described some pointers on contest entry paperwork. If you missed the meeting or would like to watch the clinic again, you can find it at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/a6fvs039gbsle6w/20210314-Wolf-Detailing-Steam.mp4?dl=0>

Tune in at the April meeting for a clinic by Rick Brown. If you model rural American “flyover country”, aka the American Prairies, often the biggest and tallest structures, visible for miles, is the ubiquitous Grain Elevator. Rick will explore what is inside, how they were built, how they work, how developing agriculture techniques changed the elevators, and how all of this affects your model railroad.

If you’re struggling to decide how large a building for your layout should be, or how many individual buildings will fit in a scene without being too “busy”, you’ll want to check out Matt Goodman’s clinic in May on using mock-ups. Not only can you use mock-ups to create a well-balanced scene, but they can also act as stand-ins until you build the final structure. Matt will describe why he started using mock-ups and how he builds them - including getting dimensions for buildings that no longer exist.

I’m still in search for mini-clinics to add to an upcoming Scenery Extravaganza at Marion in June. If you have a scenery technique you’d like to present (trees, ground cover, roads, city streets, etc, etc, etc), let me know. I’m also looking for one more clinic for Marion. If you’ve been hesitant to put together something for a Zoom clinic, now’s your chance to do it in person.

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 each to see which certificate your presentation qualifies for.

Notes From Jim Kehn

Here is where I go to get good modeling information.
[Adena Railroad](#)

Chris Ellis runs the site. He is an NKP modeler in the Akron area, modeling the NKP Adena Railroad down in the former W&LE SE Ohio coalfields.

I usually go to Bernie Kempinski's USMRR blog. [One of many listed on the side-Editor.] He has written many arti-

cles and books on model railroading and is a superb modeler. He recently posted a video on backdrops.

I also check out Eric Hansman's blog on modeling the Pre-Depression era. Great insight to period rolling stock.

There are others that you might recognize that post and they are all full of good ideas.

Membership End of the Month Report

Rick Brown, Membership Chair

Summary

The February report from National NMRA saw three members derailed (send in your dues!) one rerailed, and a current NMRA member move in to the Division 6 territory. Let us welcome **KC Breaston** into the Buckeye Division through a relocation! Please join one of our meetings so we may greet you!

Active Members (end of the month):

February '21	161	February '20	168
January '21	162	January '20	168
December '20	158	December '19	165
November '20	159	November '19	169

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)

February saw **one** member renew their membership. We had **three** members were derailed. 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

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

Notes and Commentary

One of the founding principles of the NMRA and our Division 6 group is to enhance our model railroading experience and to be an ambassador for both the organization and this, the Greatest Hobby in the World (channeling my inner Ken Patterson!). One of the many ways we can do this is through group attendance and participation in our Buckeye Division meetings...whether live in-person or virtually. Let us all hope we are meeting live, in-person, and safely very soon.

One of the ways we can become ambassadors of this hobby is to be inviting and welcoming to individuals who are not yet a member of the NMRA. Division 6 welcomes visitors to the meetings, to observe, learn, participate, and take advantage of the wonderful clinics that the division is presenting. That feeling of community is important to many members....and to potential members.

If you invite a guest or two to attend a Division 6 meeting, your leadership is asking a couple of things. First, introduce them and help them feel welcome. Helping others feel that this is a place for them is very important to have

them want to join and continue.

Secondly, after they have visited the meetings three times, ask them to join. Help them understand all the benefits of membership in both the National organization (magazines, website, content, standards, AP program) and within Division 6.

The national organization's guidance is that three guest visits should lead to membership. We hope that this invitee's test drive after three visits is a positive one, and should lead to membership. Let's get them in our ranks!

Of course, we have many division members whose main interest is only the National level. We have over 160 members of the division, but less than 40 active participants at the divisional level. But the collegial meetings we all enjoy can be enhanced by being MORE welcoming, MORE inviting, and MORE collective. This group desires more participation.

We all have great Model Railroad stories to tell. Share them with some potential members, and bring them along. We would love to hear their stories as well!



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.



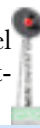
Marion Meeting Update

Don Wilke, Director

We discussed the possibility of having an in-person meeting at Marion Union Station in June at Thursday's Steering Committee Meeting. The Committee expressed a longing to have an in-person meeting again. We miss the fellowship. We talked about resuming the Model Contest with a Favorite Train category and the clinics for the Scenery Extravaganza.

We found most of the members of the Steering Committee ranged from having an appointment to get a COVID vaccine shot to more than two weeks after the second COVID shot. After talking about masks, social distancing, and COVID variants we decided too was too early to make a decision. Some felt some members might not attend because the COVID variants have the potential to be more infectious, even if you had the shot. We felt we should plan as if we would have a meeting in Marion. BUT the BOD felt the responsible thing to do was make a final decision closer to the meeting date after listening to medical guidelines.

Dexter recently found the original meeting date is available. The group who had reserved that date decided to cancel their meeting. The Marion Meeting will be on 19 June. The question is will it be a Zoom Meeting or an In-Person Meeting?



Division 6 on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:

NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]

Last Minute Update
Spam Button Misuse
 NMRA IT Department

It has come to the attention of the NMRA IT department that many NMRA members do not receive NMRA email publications (*Turntable*, *eBulletin*, *Dispatch*) because **other** members use the **Spam button**.

If the publication is not of interest, simply **delete** it. If you no longer want to receive any NMRA email publication, please use the **Unsubscribe link** (found at the bottom of the email), which is safe and secure. Never use the **Spam** or **Junk button**. If too many people do this, service providers such as Yahoo will block all people from ever seeing the emails. Most NMRA members want to keep in touch. Don't ruin it for them.

Please note that **Unsubscribe** will apply to all NMRA email publications, including the *Turntable*, *eBulletin*, *special eBulletins*, and *Dispatch*.

Note From the Signal Editor

The NMRA National and the Mid Central Region are not the only ones with this problem. Reports of missing emails from the Buckeye Division have been increasing lately. We have been trying to track down the problem. The only common problem was members who had an AOL account. I think the **Spam** or **Junk** button use is now the problem. According to the information from National, this not only affects your email account but other division members as well.

I'm not sure if this will work. If you have used the **Spam** or **Junk** button, go to the **Spam folder** or the **Junk folder** and move any NMRA, MCR, and Division 6 emails from those folders and then delete them. I know some service providers, like - but not limited to - Yahoo, run email filters. I'm guessing if enough people declare a group email as Spam or Junk they will not let it pass through their system. If we un-Spam and un-Junk enough group emails maybe they will change their filter. That will take time because they have to collect enough data.

Help your fellow members. Don't use the **Spam Button** or the **Junk Button**, just delete the group email you don't want. Or set up a folder called Delete Later and direct those group emails there.

