

# Super's Signal

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

May 2021

## Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Super

Hobby-related items have kept me busy this past month. Along with various model railroad tasks, I've been preparing a presentation called *Circleville's Industrial West Side, ca. 1938* for the Pickaway County Historical and Genealogical Library. I've collected information on Circleville for several years and decided to share what I've learned with the larger community.

The talk will introduce the history of Circleville in the context of my hobby – i.e., how building an operating railroad with convincing scenery requires research. Then presenting the results of that research to show things that I might have forgotten or overlooked. After all, does the average person know what a freight house is or how it contributed to a city's economy? Or that it even existed? They will even hear a little bit about structure mock-ups and related modeling topics.

I'm hoping the talk will trigger some memories from people in attendance that will make the story of my layout a little more colorful. And maybe some are closet model railroaders!

### Steering Committee Updates

Your Board of Directors and Steering Committee are staying busy. There are a few things that are in the fire. If you want to know more, join us at the next Steering Committee meeting – contact me for details.

**Website Survey:** This is in flight; the division distributed the survey (via MailChimp) at the end of March. Thanks to you that have already replied and those that volunteered to help. If you haven't yet filled it out, click this link and get started:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TM77RNF>

**Division Regulation Updates:** When written, our regulations didn't foresee voting by any means other than mail. Butch Sage is working on proposed changes

## 16 May 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: *Structure Mock-Ups*, Matt Goodman

*Using Mock-Ups in Layout Planning*, Ken McDonough

**Virtual Photo Contest:** Railroad Signals

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

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

that will allow more flexibility for future elections, such as electronic voting. This work is close to wrapping up.

**In-Person Division Meeting:** We started discussing a return to “normal” at the last Steering Committee meeting. Dexter Hill reserved a date on Marion's calendar last month to ensure we could do it if the situation allows. Traditionally this is our biggest meeting of the year. We will iron out details at the next two Steering Committee meetings. Expect a survey on this topic to give us feedback on your point of view.

**Other Items:** Dick Briggs is working on remote layout tour ideas. Jim Ruisinger is continually refining the contest format. Including ideas on what “virtual” contest attributes to retain once we are back to in-person meetings.

### The British are Coming!

More accurately, the Scot is coming! The results of the 2021 NMRA National Election are in. There is a history-making winner in the Presidential race. Gordon (Gordy) Robinson of the U.K. will be the first non-North

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*Super's Signal Deadline*  
**20 May**

**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](#)

**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**

**11 April 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

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

*Super's Signal* Publisher

Don Wilke

Web Master

Don Wilke

**Absent:**

Company Store, Train Show

Greg Short

Membership Retention

Bruce McDonald

**Announcements:**

Matt Goodman. Matt posted the links to today's Agenda and the Photo contest entries on our Zoom chat. Matt thanked Butch Sage for putting together the pre-meeting slide show and the members who contributed photos for the show. Matt greeted Fred Rea and Thomas Johnson. Matt announced the NMRA National Election results. Our new NMRA President is Gordy Robinson from the Orkney Islands, United Kingdom our first President not from North America.

**Reports:**

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

**Paymaster's Report:** Jim Borcz. After announcing our balances as of March 31, Jim reported sending a check to the Laughlin Center for a down payment on our Train Show in October. Greg Short will be following up with some additional questions from the Steering Committee. Jim transferred money for Darrell's postal expenses. The membership approved the Paymaster's Report, pending audit.

**Program Locations and Clinics Report:** Dexter Hill. Dexter reported that the next member meeting will be on May 16 via Zoom. There will be two clinics about using mockups.

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

We hope to hold our June 19 meeting in Marion in person. Dexter will call Marion Union Station for their Covid protocols to help us decide what we will do. Matt will send out a survey in May asking the membership to report their comfort levels. The division is planning two full-length clinics for Marion. Also, there will be many short clinics on scenery, **THE SCENERY EXTRAVAGANZA**. There is room for a few more short clinics, so if you have an idea, please contact Matt Goodman or Mike Wolf. Watch the *Super's Signal* for the details.

**Achievement Report:** Dick Briggs. Dick (who is in South Carolina using a tablet on a pool deck) reports that some people are working on some things. But it's pretty quiet right now. He is updating some records.

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

**Webmaster's Report:** Don Wilke. Don is revising the main page of the Mid Central Region's website, including some MMR® updates.

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

**Super's Signal Report:** Don Wilke. The deadline for articles is this Thursday, April 15. If you have an article for this issue and can't meet the deadline, please let Don know how much room to reserve for your contribution. He aims to release the next issue the following Monday.

**Groups.io:** Jim Ruisinger. Jim would like to see an increase in the number of members signed onto the division's group above the current 70 or 71 members. A lot of members have been sharing ideas on groups.io, and anyone not in the group is missing out.

**Media Report:** Rick Brown. Rick reports very little traction on our Facebook page. If you are on the page, hit "like" so Rick can receive a count. Also, let Rick know if there is something that you don't like. Jim Ruisinger will be posting the photo contest winners on our Facebook page. Rick says that usually creates an increase in traffic.

**Membership Report:** Rick Brown. Rick reports membership is up to 164, with 12 renewals, three joining and one who moved into our division. We welcome them all and hope they will give us a chance to know them better.

**Train Show Reports:** Matt Goodman. Matt reports that the division scheduled the Train Show for October 17 and plans are moving forward. The Paymaster paid a deposit for the Laughlin Center, Cambridge. Matt is waiting for some more information from the Laughlin Center to determine costs. Darrell asked about preparing flyers and coupons for the hobby shops. The Bucyrus Show and the Parma O-Scale

Show were both well attended. That is an encouraging indication for our show.

### General Updates:

**Steering Committee Meetings:** Matt Goodwin. The monthly Steering Committee meetings are open for the division members to attend if they wish. Matt schedules the meeting on the third Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. (A request same made to change the time to 7:00 p.m.) Contact Matt for a Zoom link to the meeting, or use the same link as this membership meeting. The next two meetings are April 15 and May 20, but please be sure to confirm the time of the meeting in advance. Topics for discussion will include Marion meeting in-person criteria, a "comfort level" survey to the membership before May 20, and updating the Division 6 Regulations to accommodate electronic voting.

### Old Business:

**Division 6 Website Survey:** Matt Goodman. Twenty division members have responded to the survey so far. If you have not yet, then please respond and give it some thought.

### New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

### Club Reports:

**Hocking Valley Model Railroad Club (Lancaster):** Dexter Hill. Dexter reports that the Hocking Club is running on Saturdays, but with very few people at a time.

**Janis Center Model Railroad Club (Columbus):** George Stringer. George reports that at a club meeting held on April 7, a representative (possibly from the state) reported on plans to build a new facility on the current site of the closed Douglas Alternative Elementary School. The new model railroad club space will be half again as big as at the former Janis Center. It will also include storage space and member lockers. The Janis Club wants to view the way other clubs use their space and asked Bob Lee for contact information. Patrick Hreachmack and Rick Brown are collecting contact information for all the clubs in Division 6. Don would like an article for the *Super's Signal*.

**Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers Club (Medina, neols.net):** Jim Borcz. Jim reported that Neols will be running this summer. Check their website for their schedule.

**Zane Trace & National Trail Model Railroad Club (Zanesville):** Robert Lee. Bob reports that the Zanesville Club will hold Open Houses on May 15 and 16 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The majority of the members have received their shots, but masks are still requested. The club has finished the signaling on the layout. The club has increased the number of buildings on the layout. They have increased the yard facilities, including roundhouse and turntable.

### Contest:

**Virtual Photo Contest—Railroad Owned and Used Line Side Structures:** Jim Ruisinger. Jim reported there were seventeen entries in the Photo Contest this month.

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

Continued: **Clerk's Report**

**Third Place:** Howdy Lamprecht for his O.G.L.C. Shay #5 on Ice Fork Creek with two crew members in the photo.

**Second Place:** Bob Baker for his two-stall engine house with "5343 receiving service."

**First Place:** Charles Shearer for capturing a water tower at just the right moment as it completed filling a tender at Chama, New Mexico.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks again to the members who submitted another superb set of photographs!

The May contest is **Railroad Signals**. Jim will open up the contest for submissions soon. Members may vote from Friday, May 14, 12:01 a.m. to Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 p.m. The Contest Chair will announce the winners at the May 16 division 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.

As we move into meeting in person again—we hope! We plan on holding the June meeting at Marion Union Station on June 19. We will begin our model contests again with **Favorite Train**. The photo contest will continue to be virtual and will follow the same parameters. The Photo Contest is also **Favorite Train**. Submit your photo entries online to Jim, and vote before the June 19 meeting. We will announce the winners at the Marion. Jim plans to try out

Continued: **The Super's Report**

American person at the helm of the NMRA. This reflects the global nature of this hobby. A nature which accelerated with the huge increase in meetings and conventions taking place digitally this past year.

Gordy ran on modernizing the "digital" capabilities of the NMRA while respecting the heritage that grounds the organization. Along those lines, I expect to see increased support and guidance for online efforts at the division level. This aligns well with our division's efforts to modernize our website, stream in-person meetings online, etc.

the idea of dividing the photos into two categories: prototype and model. Details to follow.

**Good of the Order:**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:** The next two Steering Committee meetings will be via Zoom on Thursday, April 15, and Thursday, May 20. The nominal time is 8:00 p.m., but that may change to 7:00. Be sure to confirm the time with Matt if you wish to attend. 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, May 16, at 1:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting will open at 1 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

Matt adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m., after a motion to adjourn by Jim, seconded by Dick.

**Clinic:**

Rick Brown presented a fascinating clinic on *Prairie Sentinels: Grain Handling, Elevators, Storage Bins, and the Railroads*. The division recorded the clinic which ran from 2:23 to 3:36 p.m., with Q&A lasting another twelve minutes. A link to the recording will be available on the Division 6 website and in the *Super's Signal*. Thank you, Rick!

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

**April Zoom Meeting**

We had another strong meeting in April, with 32 attendees. Including at least two guests from outside of Division 6. Rick's presentation on *Prairie Sentinels* was very well received, and it didn't even include much about railroading! Rick has hinted that there may be a follow-up presentation to cover the rail-side of things. See Mike's "Clinic Corner" to see what's coming up in future meetings.

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
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
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
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 Deadline</i>		
16 May	Zoom Virtual Meeting	Business Meeting: <i>Zoom</i> Clinic: <i>Structure Mock-Ups</i> , Matt Goodman; <i>Using Mock-Ups in Layout Planning</i> , Ken McDonough Virtual Photo Contest: Railroad Signals	Zoom Video Call
20 May	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
20-23 May	MCR Convention	<i>The Northern Express</i> - <b>Canceled</b>	Erie, PA
19 Jun Saturday	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <b>TBD</b> Clinic: <i>The Great Flood of 1913 and its Impact on the PRR in Ohio</i> , Bill Brubach; <i>Model Sound</i> , JT Burke (Scale Sound Systems) & <b>Scenery Extravaganza Building Tunnels</b> , 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 Model Contest: Favorite Train Virtual Photo Contest: Favorite Train	Marion (TBD)
23 Jun	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
11 July	Possible Virtual Contest	Virtual Photo Contest: Railroad Bridges & Trestles	
8 Aug	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <b>TBD</b> ; Clinic: <b>TBD</b> Virtual Photo Contest: Caboose(s)	TBD
12 Aug	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
12 Sept	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <b>TBD</b> Clinic: <b>TBD</b> Virtual Photo Contest: Steam Locomotive	TBD
16 Sept	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
10 Oct	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <b>TBD</b> Clinic: <b>TBD</b> Virtual Photo Contest: Thumbz (Whimsical Railroad Items)	TBD
14 Oct	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
17 Oct	Division 6 Train Show		Cambridge
14 Nov	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <b>TBD</b> Clinic: <b>TBD</b> Virtual Photo Contest: Closed Freight Car	TBD
18 Nov	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
12 Dec	Division 6 Meeting (TBD)	Business Meeting: <b>TBD</b> Clinic: <b>TBD</b> Virtual Photo Contest: Passenger Car	TBD
16 Dec	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		

## Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair

### “Virtual” Contest #3 March in Review

Our Virtual Photo Contest for April saw 17 great photos entered. Photos were almost evenly split between models and the prototype. We announced the top three vote recipients at our April 11th “Zoom” Division 6 Meeting. We also posted the winners 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 May Virtual Photo Contest will be Railroad Signals. Examples of these can be Switch Stands, Dwarf Signals, Grade Crossings, Cantilever, Target Signals, Semaphores, 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 in by 10 pm, Thursday, May 13th. 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

**Model:** None

**Photo:** Rail Road Owned Line-Side Structure

**1st Place:** Charles Scherer, *Water Tank at Chama, NM on the Cumbres & Toltec*

**2nd Place:** Bob Baker, *Two Stall Engine House*

**3rd Place:** Howdy Lamprecht, *Water Tank at Ice Fork Creek on the Olive Grove*

to cast votes for your top three choices starting Friday, May 14th. Voting will be all day Friday and will end at 9 pm on Saturday, May 15th. We will announce the top three vote recipients at our Zoom Division meeting on May 16th.

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 below.

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](mailto:Jimbo2490@yahoo.com)



1st Place Photo by Charles Scherer (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 Borc	2	Harry Sage	1
Jim Ruisinger	2		

### Photographer 2021

Bob Baker	8	John Gafney	3
Howdy Lamprecht, MMR	8	Matt Goodman	3
Steve Hurt	6	Jim Oberst	3
Don Wilke	6	Dave Richter	3
Dick Briggs, MMR	5	Jerry Hurt	2
Mike Wolf, MMR	5	Doug Kullman	2
Bill Alarie	4	Jim Borc	1
Richard Matejovic	4	Darrell Logan	1
Jim Ruisinger	4	Bruce Steinfurth	1
Harry Sage	4	David White	1
Charles Scherer	4		



### Clinic Updates

Thanks to Rick Brown for his clinic at the April meeting on Prairie Sentinels. He discussed 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 missed the meeting or would like to watch the clinic again, you can find it at:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ry0asszfd836on/20210411-Brown-Prairie\\_Sentinels.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ry0asszfd836on/20210411-Brown-Prairie_Sentinels.mp4?dl=0)

Tune in at the May meeting for clinics by Matt Goodman and Ken McDonough. 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", these are the clinics for you. Matt will discuss the use of mock-ups. You can use them to create a well-balanced scene. Mock-ups can also act as stand-ins until you build the final structure. Matt will describe why he started using mock-ups. How he builds mock-ups, including getting dimensions for buildings that no longer exist. Ken didn't use a CAD program or graph paper, a compass, and a ruler when designing his layout. Ken recently laid out his new layout using track templates and mockups directly on his benchwork. He'll share what he learned along the way.

I'm still in search for a couple more mini-clinics to add to the upcoming Scenery Extravaganza at Marion in June. If you have a scenery technique you'd like to present (ground cover, roads, city streets, basic landforms, etc, etc, etc), let me know. If you've been hesitant to put together something for a Zoom clinic, now's your chance to do it in person. These are just quick clinics on one technique and only 5-15 minutes in length. Send your ideas to the email below.

I've got two really good full-length clinics lined up for Marion also. Tune in to the Clinic Corner next month for details on those.

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.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The Buckeye Division Elections Teller, Butch Sage, announced the results of the recent Director's Election at the Steering Committee Meeting. The following Division 6 members were elected to be Division 6's Directors for two years starting May 31; Dick Briggs, Don Wilke, and Mike Wolf.

## Membership End of the Month Report

*Rick Brown, Membership Chair*

### Summary

The March report from National NMRA saw one members derailed (send in your dues!) one rerailed, and a current NMRA member move in to the Division 6 territory. But the best news of all is **THREE** new members. Let us welcome **Patrick Connell**, **Dana Cooper**, and **George Stringer**. Also, **Raymond Smit** moved into Division 6 territory. Please join one of our meetings so we may greet you!

Want to inquire about your membership, or when dues are to be paid? Happy to help

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

March '21	164	March '20	165
February '21	161	February '20	168
January '21	162	January '20	168
December '20	158	December '19	165

**Upcoming Expirations – Check your dates!** 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 **one** member derailed. We had **one** member move into the division from another region. We had **three** new members!

### Commentary

Each time a new member appears in the roster, I send a welcome email. George Stringer replied to my note, with quite the little biography. I thought it worthy of sharing (with his kind permission):

I am 77 now and building my last layout. Janet and I have moved from Ohio to Indiana, to Tennessee, back to Indiana, and back to Ohio. In each state at each house, I have built a layout.

This one is different. I decided to use the old plain doors from the house as benchwork covered with foam sheets instead of scraping them out from the remodel and buying plywood. They worked well. The layout under construction now is 21 by 23 feet. The track is laid and buildings and streets are in place. I saved all the buildings from previous layouts. The streets are a combination of plaster on

### 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

plywood and/or foam board along with painted plastic streets cut from For Sale and For Rent signs. I scored the plastic for street joints as well as cracks in the cement that weather well to show. I still have a couple of grade crossings to finish. Ballasting, ground foam, static grass has not started yet. See Attached Photos. ([Page 12.](#))

My primary interest is PRR and NKP growing up on the Panhandle where the two roads went side by side from Jewett to Bowerstown.

I am retired and have plenty of time to work on the layout. I started on the layout on the 24th of Nov. 2020 after remodeling the present house. I participate with the PRR group in the Cincinnati area through Zoom Meetings and have joined the Janis RR Club here in Columbus.

George also noted he is a proud member of the Pennsy Historical Society. Welcome to Division 6!



*Division 6 Email Group:*

[NMRABuckeyeDivision@groups.io](mailto:NMRABuckeyeDivision@groups.io)



## Book Review

*Timber Titans, Baldwin's Articulated Logging Locomotives*

From White River Productions, \$79.95

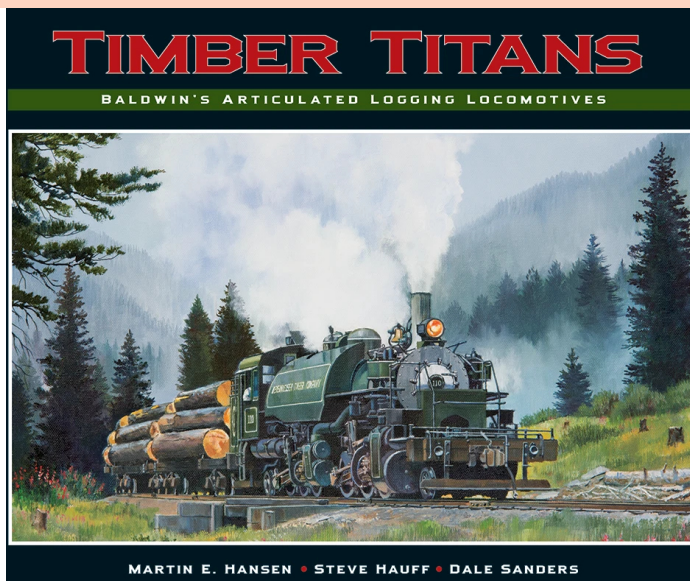
Jim Ruisinger

This is the ultimate compendium for aficionados of logging locomotives. It traces the history of every logging mallet built by Baldwin Locomotive Works. From the initial purchase, with the builder's number, to the scrapper's torch or in a handful of instances, a museum or tourist railroad. From the first locomotive produced in 1900, all the way to the final one built in 1937. Baldwin had the market for these locomotives while others, like Alco, Lima, and Rodger's never came up with designs to compete with Baldwin. When you mention logging locomotives to model railroaders, the first thing they think of are Shays, Heislars, and Climaxes. Rod-type engines are not thought of as front-line power, except out west. With the vast expanses of timber in the Pacific Northwest, long runs from cutting and loading areas to the mills were the norms. The runs were too long for the much slower geared locomotives of the time.

These Locomotives, while primarily built for the logging industry, found themselves in other roles. Such as hauling Gilsonite on the 3' gauge Uintah Railway or on the Sierra Railway in regular revenue service. Baldwin had constructed other rod-type engines for logging. When the need arose for more powerful locomotives, capable of higher speeds, steep grades, power, and tight curves required a new type of locomotive. The solution was the articulated locomotive concept. Baldwin is probably most noted for their tank-type mallets with the most popular being the 2-6-6-2T wheel arrangement. These rather unique engines carried water inside or saddle tanks mounted along each side of the boiler. They carried fuel in a bunker just aft of the cab. Early on, they burned wood but it was quickly discovered that burning oil produced no sparks or cinders. So after about 1902, Baldwin builds nearly all the locomotives as oil burners.

This book covers every articulated locomotive Baldwin built for the logging industry in minute detail. The book covers everything from builder shop number to driver and cylinder size, operating pressures, weight, etc.

It also traces the ownership of each locomotive from the time it left the Baldwin plant to the time it met its end. Surprisingly for a locomotive produced in such small numbers (only 46 built), a handful of them were preserved. They



either sit as museum pieces or have been operationally restored and operate on tourist railroads. It is surprising as one reads thru this treasure-trove of information, that many of the locomotives built, had multiple owners through one company acquiring another, and so forth.

Where can one go to see one of these unique and specialized locomotives today? Three of the tank articulated survive and are plying the rails at tourist railroads in California and South Dakota. Clover Valley Lumber #4, a 2-6-6-2T is running at the Niles Canyon Railway near San Francisco, California. Along with Deep River Lumber Co. #7, a 2-4-4-2 with tender, affectionately known as "Skookum". Weyerhaeuser Timber Company's No. 108 and 110 are in service on the Black Hills Central Railroad near Rapid City, South Dakota; right around the corner from Mount Rushmore.

*Timber Titans, Baldwin's Articulated Logging Locomotives* from White River Productions is a fantastic book. Authors, Martin Hansen, Steve Hauff, and Dale Sanders, are all noted logging railroad authorities. With over 250 pages chocked full of photos, drawings, and technical specs, this book is a must-have for any enthusiast of 20th-century logging and lumber railroads.

*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]*

## Modeling Tip of the Month – Files, Part 1

Matt Goodman – Photos by Author

The past couple of weeks, I've been using files heavily in track building. Doing so reminded me how much I've learned about this often disrespected or misunderstood tool over the past couple of years, all thanks to my hobbies. The following is an introduction to file terms, with opinions scattered here and there. This is all in the context of model building in general, and metal (rail) work more specifically.

### File Patterns

You will often see files referred to as "American" or "Swiss" patterns. For our purposes, these terms are equivalent to "general use" (American) and "precision" (Swiss). Another way to think of it is that Swiss patterns are small, American patterns are large. There are more specific definitions, but that is a rabbit hole that I don't fully understand and is out of scope anyway.

### Single and Double-Cut Files

Metalworking files come in single-cut and double-cut (Photo- 1). These terms refer to the teeth cut into the file. Single-cut files have one set of diagonal teeth along the axis of the file body. Double-cut files have two sets of diagonal teeth that cross one another, making a crosshatch pattern.



Photo 1. Single Cut top, Double Cut bottom. Both are No.2 Swiss Pattern

Double cut files are better at removing metal quickly, single cut for getting a smoother finish. Picture slicing a thin layer off of the top of a stick of frozen butter with a sharp knife (single cut). Compared that to running a cheese grater over the same frozen butter stick (double cut). The first will leave a smooth finish, the latter will remove a lot of butter, but leave a rough finish.

I've found that single cut files are not common on Swiss/Precision-sized files. That said, I do have some but don't often use them since the angle of the teeth tends to make the file pull sideways off of the work. This tendency doesn't impact larger American Pattern files to the same degree.

### Coarse vs. Rough Cuts

Both American and Swiss pattern files come in various coarseness levels that range from removing metal quickly to producing a very smooth finish. From coarsest (fast removal) to finest, the cuts are called:

American – Bastard Cut, Second Cut, Smooth Cut

Swiss - #00, #0, #2, #4, etc.

For trackwork, I use an American Bastard Cut file to form points and frogs. For adjusting or forming flangeways, tweaking the point of the points, and similar work, I use a Swiss Pattern #2 cut. I have yet to try a finer cut in the smaller files since the application I'm using them for doesn't require a smoother finish.

To confuse the cut issue a bit, the actual coarseness of a file varies depending on the file's length, even those with the same name or number. For instance, a 4" American Smooth Cut file has more teeth per inch than a 6" American Smooth Cut file. The same is true for the numbering system on Swiss Pattern files. See the following photos for an example.



Photo 2. The 6" file in the middle and the 4" file on the right are both Smooth Cut, but have obvious tooth spacing differences. 10" Bastard Cut file on the left for reference

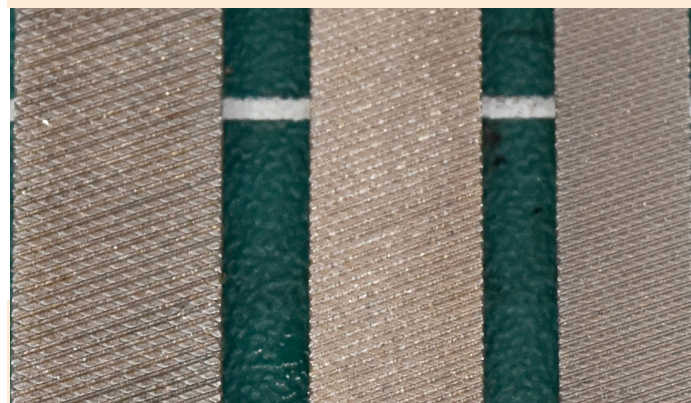


Photo 3. Left to right are 6 1/4", 5 1/2" and 4" Swiss/Precision files, each with different tooth spacing

From a practical user standpoint, the spacing difference isn't relevant since different file lengths are generally used for different purposes.

### File Length

They measure American Cut files from the heel of the file (just forward of the tang/handle) to the point. A wide range of

**Modeling Tip – Files**  
Continued on [page 11](#).



Continued: **Modeling Tip – Files**

lengths is available.

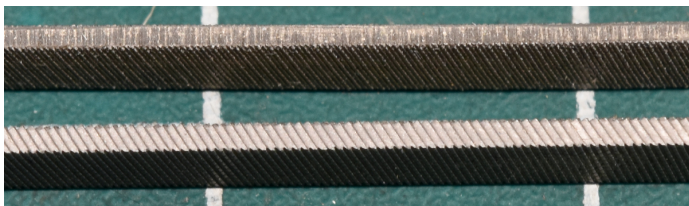
They measure Swiss Cut files by their overall length, from the tip of the tang/handle to the point. By far the most common lengths are 6 ¼”, 5 ½”, and 4”.

### File Shape / Cutting Surfaces

Files, both American and Swiss Pattern, come in a million and one shapes with a variety of cutting surfaces. A nice chart showing some of the wide shape range is in the resources link at the end of this article.

Files can have both cutting and “safe” surfaces. The latter are faces or edges that have no teeth cut into them. These can be very useful when there is a need for precision filing that protects adjacent surfaces.

A practical model railroading example would be adjusting the width of a slot (a flangeway, for example) without affecting the depth. In this example, you would look for a file with safe edges to prevent an accidental deepening of the slot. On the flip side, if you want to deepen the slot without affecting the edges, you’d look for a file with safe faces and cutting edges. These are joint files and they can be hard to find!



*Photo 4. Top: Equaling file with safe edge.  
Bottom: Equaling file with cutting edge (more common)*

### Useful Files for Track Building

With that background, I’ve pictured the files I found most useful for a variety of track or metalwork over the years, with descriptions.

1. 10” Mill File, Bastard Cut. I use this to form points (switch and frog) in Fast Tracks fixtures and by hand. I also use it to prepare PC Board ties before soldering, and for more general use around the home.
2. 6” American, Smooth Cut. PC Board tie preparation, some rail work
3. Slitting File. Also called a Screw Cut File or a Feather Edge file. Perfect for gapping the PC board ties, especially if they’re already soldered in place. Also fantastic for starting a very precise gap in a rail, such as when opening flangeways in diamond crossings.



*Photo 5.*

4. 4 ¼” #2 Equaling (flat) file. General small use. Very handy for adjusting rail length, leveling high spots, etc.
5. 5 ¼” Single cut flexible file. Leveling high spots on frog points, forming switch point rails. This has a single cut and safe edges.
6. 5 ½” #2 Warding file. General precision use similar to #4, and filing flangeways. The elliptical tip makes it possible to file a flat flangeway bottom with the file-handle tilted up and away from the rail – making it easier to use. It otherwise serves the same purposes as an equaling file.
7. 4” #2 Equaling file. 4” files are very thin for more precise use, excellent for forming flangeways.
8. 4” #2 Warding file. Also for flangeway or similar use, very thin.

6, 7 & 8 overlap in their description; their use boils down to thickness. While the shorter 7 & 8 are harder to use, the thinner blade makes it less likely to overshoot the NMRA flangeway width. For example, the NMRA target spec for flangeways is .0480”. The 5 ½” file is .0450” thick compared to 4” file’s .0415”. The 4” literally allows more “wiggle room” when filing!

**Next time:** Quality, maintenance, selecting files and sources.

**Modeling Tip – Files**  
Continued on [page 12](#).

Continued: **Modeling Tip – Files**

## Resources

### File Anatomy:

<https://www.kmstools.com/blog/hand-file-identification/>

### File Terminology:

<https://fedfile.com/terms.htm>

### File Identification Chart:

[https://www.kmstools.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/KMS\\_File-ID-Chart.pdf](https://www.kmstools.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/KMS_File-ID-Chart.pdf)

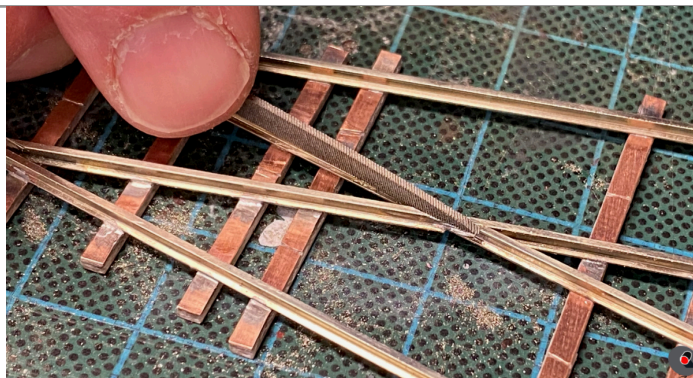


Photo 6. Warding file allows knuckle clearance above the rail while producing a flat-bottomed flangeway

## Tool Tip - Craft Paints

Mike Wolf, MMR®

Many modelers use craft paints. They are relatively inexpensive and come in a wide range of colors. One issue with craft paints is brush strokes. As Joe Fugate of *Model Railroad Hobbyist* explained in a recent column on their website, craft paints are inexpensive in part because they don't have a high-quality acrylic base like the more expensive model paints available at the hobby shop. One suggestion is to add Floetrol. It's available at Home Depot, Ace Hardware, and Amazon among others. According to the manufacturer, use Floetrol to thin latex paints to spray the paint easier. So, you could use Floetrol if you want to airbrush craft paints. But it will also improve the flow and leveling qualities of craft paint if you are brush painting it. The recommendation is to start with 1 part Floetrol to 8 parts paint. Up to 1:6 will probably work. Due to the amount of pigment in the paint, pushing it to 1:4 might dilute the paint too much.

Give it a try and share your results.



Floetrol

## 2021 Train Show – Notice

Greg Short, Train Show Chair

As many of you know Division 6 scheduled our Train show for this October 17. For this to be a success we need your help. If you would like to help please let me know and I will see that you are included in this great day. We will need folks to help set up, tear down, and do various other items during the day. We also need folks to help get the word out, passing out flyers at other events, or visiting hobby shops throughout the region to place flyers there. We are also in need of some folks that would like to help with future events by setting on the Train Show Committee. If this is something that perks your interest, contact me. Thanks

Greg Short, Train Show Chair

oc5855@hotmail.com, 740-607-3223

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## Photos

From  
Membership  
Report

I do not have  
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could not see  
the photos -  
Editor



## *Weathering Ideas and Hints*

Darrell Logan

### **Building & Detailing Ideas**

#### **General Information**

- A. India Ink Wash (light) 1 Teaspoon India ink to 1 pint alcohol  
India Ink Wash (dark) 2 Teaspoon India ink to 1 pint alcohol.
- B. Paint Pigments: Raw Sienna & Burnt Umber.
- C. Copper Paint Kit by Plaid; ForkArt paints include Patina (green), Copper and Bronze.
- D. Dry Brushing: Use a stiff paint brush, dip in paint, wipe off most of the paint on a paper high spots.
- E. Driftwood is a stain made by Floquil company. This is unfortunately no longer made. You can substitute Floquil Grime diluted to make a stain.
- F. Pounce wheel: This available from Micro-mark or similar companies. They are available many  
Wet Water is tap water with a little dish detergent mixed in to break the surface tension.

#### **Finishing Ideas.**

- 1. Copper: To get this effect, use a copper patina kit (C). Prime the part with grey. Then brush paint with patina green, dry brush (D) with copper color. Weather with India ink wash (A).
- 2. Weather wood shingles: Apply shingles according to the directions. Paint with Floquil Driftwood stain (E). When dry, lift shingles with tip of XActo knife. Apply dry paint pigments (B). Weather with India ink wash (A) dark mixture. Dry brush with antique white (D).
- 3. Weathered Clapboard: Paint with Floquil Driftwood stain (E). Add nail holes with a pounce wheel (F), pin or other sharp tool. Lift boards with a single edge razor blade by sliding the blade underneath the clapboard and lifting up. Break some pieces for a more weathered look. Now add the India ink wash (A). Put the walls under weight to dry.
- 4. Weathered corrugated siding: Cut aluminum siding with to fit your model. Put the pieces on some tape with the sticky side up. Prime the pieces with either a gray or rust colored primer. When dry apply to the roof/wall. After all of the siding is on, paint with powdered pigments (B). Dip a paintbrush into some wet water (G). Then dip the brush into the two different colors of pigments and blend on siding. When dry, go over the siding with India ink wash (A). When dry, streak on the paint pigments again but this time do it dry.
- 5. Roof Details: It is a good idea to add as much interest to your roofs of your structures. This is especially true when the building has a flat roof. Good details to add are roof accesses, vents, bracing, tires, birds, wood, barrels, 55 gallon drums.
- 6. Tin Signs: Many of the signs that were found on buildings were made of tin. They are easy to make. Either copy the signs onto card stock or glue the paper sign onto a piece of card stock. This will give the sign some more body and it will look like tin. You can then weather it with the India ink wash (A) and dry brush with antique white (D).
- 7. Tar and Gravel roof: This type of roof is commonly found on many structures. It is easy to do. First, print both sides on your roof material with a gray primer. This will prevent it from warping. Next paint the area with a thick black paint. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle on very fine dirt. If the roof is large, do it in sections. Once done, you can cover any missed area with more paint and dirt.
- 8. Fences: This fence depicts a very weathered fence. Cut the tops of some of the boards with a single edge razor blade. Remove some boards for a more weathered look. Prime both sides of the fence with a gray primer. Paint the color of your choice. Weather with India ink wash (A). Small details like signs add much to fence. Weather these as described in (6).

9. Scratch building details: This detail is for an O scale building. Many of the castings are HO Scale but look good when properly used in larger scale. Don't let the scale dictate the use of a good casting.
10. Roads: Concrete Roads: The roads are made with Fast and Final Speckle by DAP. Spread a thin layer (1/16th) down where needed. Scribe the expansion joints and cracks when dry. Paint with concrete colored paint. Grind up some charcoal briquettes on sandpaper. Let the powder fall upon the street. Move the charcoal around with a soft brush. When satisfied affix with Dullcote.
11. Dirt Roads: Ceramic grout makes excellent dirt roads. Sprinkle in place on the layout. Once in place, dampen the grout, as it starts to harden, you can make small ruts in the surface by pushing a scale vehicle along gently. Any other details should be affixed with dullcote. Recently, I have discovered that premixed grout will work also. I use the "Earth" color for dirt roads. Apply it using a plastic putty knife. Follow the instructions above for adding ruts etc to the road.
12. Rusted Tins Signs: Take a stiff paintbrush and dampen with wet water (G). Dip in some paint pigments (B). Stipple the color onto the sign. Alternate between the two colors. Repeat until satisfied.
13. Industrial Track: This track was first painted with Floquil rail brown. Then individual ties were painted with Floquil Driftwood stain full strength. Then the track was weathered with India ink wash (A). Since this is an industrial track real dirt can be used for the ballast. Look at real industrial track, notice how the ties are buried. You can also add various weeds, papers, castings, etc to the scene to create more interest.
14. Chimney: Paint castings with gray primer. Paint the bricks with a shade of red that you like. Weather with India ink wash (A). To add mortar use thin concrete colored paint. Dry brush the brick, with various shades of red and little black to make the bricks look more realistic.
15. Window Treatment: Make shades with ordinary writing paper an off white color, weather with your light India ink wash (A). Curtains are made from facial tissue. Used any color desired. Cut into small pieces, paint with a 50/50 mix of water and glue. When dry they will not move.
16. Painted on paper signs: Sand the back of the paper with medium grit sandpaper. Start in the middle and work towards the ends. When it is completely sanded, cut it out and apply glue to the entire back. Using a piece of wax paper or plastic wrap, cover the sign and press in into the contour of the wall. When done, dry brush (D) with the wall color.
17. Ground Cover: Try to use natural material as much as possible. Sift the real dirt into multiple grades. Use the coarse dirt next to a structure or in areas where there is little pedestrian or vehicle traffic. In those areas use the finer dirt. Inferred details can be added to ground covering with the simple addition of coloring. Use chalk, charcoal, dry brushed or airbrush paint to vary the colors of ground cover around the layout. Anything from oil stains to dried mud puddles are easily done.
18. Foliage: Again using different natural materials for foliage can make a dramatic result in modeling. Keep in mind that while your models may be old and weather beaten, your foliage should always look new. Unlike your structures, the foliage is replaced yearly by "Mother Nature". Use some grasses, clump foliage, poly fiber bushes, leaves and weeds. Don't be afraid to experiment with different colors and textures. All of the products I use are available from Woodland Scenics or Scenic Express.
19. Detailing: Don't place detail parts just anywhere, think about how the stuff would appear in real life. Broken wood, spilled product, rust, oil and puddles are easy to add to a scene. Newspapers, scrap metal & shards of glass are quick easy and cheap ways to increase the believability of any scene.



# Third Annual NMRA Division 6

# Train Show

## Cambridge Ohio

**Sunday**

**October 17, 2021**

**10 am to 4 pm**



*Easy Access from I-70 and I-77*

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**7033 Glenn Hwy**

**Cambridge OH 43725**



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