

# Super's Signal

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

August 2023

## Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Super

We had a good meeting in Sunbury, in a new (to us) location. My understanding is that the library is new. It had all the equipment and the tech we were beginning to expect. The tech significantly eases setup. Ken McDonough was kind enough to arrive early, so the tech was already in place when most of us arrived. I could focus on setting up Zoom, which ran pretty smoothly. Not as smoothly as when Dexter is lending his experience, but smooth enough that Carter Jastram and a couple of others could attend.

Most of you remember that Darrell and Connie Logan donated a sizable collection of books to the division early this year. The intention was to sell them at the Train Show or something similar. Then they showed me a better way; they brought a second collection of books to Marion and moved almost all of them. Following that lead, I brought the original batch of books to Sunbury, and a dozen more changed hands. Some additional cash came into the division's coffers. We'll continue bringing books to future meetings, so if you missed out this time, you'll have a second chance.

Jim Kehn delivered the first batch of new Division 6 shirts for those who ordered them at the Marion meeting. If you're unaware, Jim's spouse Brenda does the embroidery. Pat Hreachmack took new orders for the next batch of shirts. Thanks to Pat for seeing this through to the end. Be aware that this is not a one-and-done. Pat will continue to take shirt orders and will place new orders with Brenda when orders reach some to-be-determined minimum quantity. This quantity will help keep Brenda's shipping costs down, making the setup more efficient.

Greg Short brought a carton of the Buckeye Steel Castings gondolas to the meeting and had one assembled and on display. After setting a price during the meeting, he sold about a dozen cars. Look elsewhere in the *Signal* for more information on pricing availability.

**Super's Signal Deadline**  
24 August

## 19 August Division 6 Meeting Coshocton Model Railroad Club Fairgrounds 707 Kenilworth Ave Coshocton

- 12:30:** Coshocton Club opens
- 1:00:** Social gathering at Coshocton Club
- 1:05:** Contest submissions open
- 1:40:** Contest submissions closes; Voting begins
- 1:50:** Contest Voting ends
- 2:00:** Division 6 Meeting
- After Meeting:** Tour of Coshocton Club
- Contests:** Caboose

We closed the meeting with Ken's live walkthrough of the NMRA website. The amazing part is even with this intro, there is still quite a bit more to the site, especially once you log in. If you haven't spent time on the website, I challenge you to look around and share an interesting bit with our mailing list. If you have looked previously, find a new rabbit hole to explore and pass on.

Ken showed us how to find other Division's newsletters and touched on some of their content. Most of it was new to me. We recorded Ken's clinic, which will be on YouTube when you read this. Unfortunately, there is a four-minute period with no audio due to a technical issue. Fortunately, our remote attendee texted me, so we corrected the outage. Always learning!

Lastly, from a meeting recap standpoint, I want to thank the Delaware County Model Railroad Club for the opening because of our visit. The members there were friendly, had a very nice layout, and performed excellent service for the community.

Time to drop the fire!



**DIVISION 6 OFFICERS**

**Superintendent**

Matt Goodman:  
30 S. Algonquin Ave., Columbus,  
Ohio 43204  
[Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org](mailto:Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org)

**Assistant Superintendent**

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

**Clerk**

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

**Pay Master**

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

**Directors**

Ken McDonough  
Donald Wilke,  
Mike Wolf, MMR<sup>®</sup>: (all Directors)  
[Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

**Appointed Chairs**

A full list of Division 6 Chairs can  
be found at:  
[https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/  
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:**

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

**NMRA Central District**

**Director:**  
Robert Beaty, MMR<sup>®</sup>

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Non-Credited Photos by Donald  
Wilke

*Clerk's Report  
Buckeye Division,  
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.  
Membership Meeting  
Sunbury Library  
15 July 2023*

*Carter Jastram, Clerk*

**Call to Order**

The Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Matt Goodman, Division 6 Superin-  
tendent, at 1:59 p.m.

**Division 6 Officers Present:**

Superintendent	Matt Goodman
Paymaster	Jim Borcz
Director	Ken McDonough
Director	Don Wilke

**Division 6 Chairs Present:**

Company Store	Greg Short
Inspector of Elections	Harry "Butch" Sage
Membership	Ken McDonough
Membership Retention	Bruce McDonald
Raffle	Scott Brown
Super's Signal Publisher	Don Wilke
Train Show	Greg Short
Webmaster	Don Wilke

**Absent:**

Assistant Superintendent, Programs	Dexter Hill
Achievement Program	Dick Briggs, MMR <sup>®</sup>
Clerk	Carter Jastram
Director, Programs	Mike Wolf, MMR <sup>®</sup>
Company Store & Train Show	Greg Short
Contest, Groups.io	Jim Ruisinger

**Announcements:**

Matt Goodman. There were no new members or visitors to introduce.

**Railroad Books:** Please peruse the railroad books from the Logans. They are in the back of the room and take what you want. Any donation goes to the division. You can give your donate to Matt.

**Reports:**

**Clerk's Report:** Matt for Carter Jastram. The membership approved the two Clerk's Reports of the Annual Membership Meeting and the Membership Meeting, held on June 17. The reports were in the July 2023 *Super's Signal*, pp. 2-4.

**Paymaster's Report:** Jim Borcz. One check remains outstanding. John Howard suggested we look into Live Oak Bank, which specializes in small businesses and nonprofits. The Bank's interest rates follow the Prime Rate. The membership approved the Paymaster's Report, pending audit.

**Program Report:** Matt for Mike Wolf. Mike is traveling. Matt reported that Ken McDonough will give us an overview of the NMRA Website for today's clinic. He will cover both the public and members-only parts of the website.

On August 19 in Coshocton, Darrell Logan will show how he paints clouds on backdrops.

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



On September 16 in Zanesville, we will tour the Zanesville Club and watch trains.

On November 18 in Mount Vernon, Michael Percy will share what he knows about Sergeant HO scale couplers.

On December 16, we will tentatively meet at the Upper Arlington Library. Greg Short will share modeling fire equipment.

Watch the *Super's Signal* for the details and updates.

**Achievement Program Report:** Matt for Dick Briggs. Dick is available to review work presented for an Achievement Certificate. Carter is working on his documentation for the Civil Engineering Certificate. Matt is also working on his documentation for the Civil Engineering Certificate. Jim Kehn is working on documentation for his MMR<sup>®</sup>. Jim suggested that he and Matt could prod one another to work toward their MMR<sup>®</sup>s.

**Webmaster's Report:** Don Wilke. Don will post today's contest winners later than usual, most likely late Tuesday or early Wednesday, July 18 or 19. Links will be on the division Welcome Page.

**Super's Signal Report:** Don Wilke. The deadline for the August issue of the *Signal* is this Thursday, July 20. Don invites articles of any length, such as four sentences, one photograph, or three pages. If an article is not quite ready, please inform Don how much space it will need.

**Membership Report:** Ken McDonough. Membership still stands at 145 as of June 30. Two have not renewed after 30 days, and one non-renewal after 60 days. We have a new 9-month member from Baltimore, Ohio, and two Rerails. Patrick reports that his friend, Randy Wiseman, will be joining shortly.

**Retention and Recruitment Report:** Mike Wolf. Mike was traveling and there was no report.

**Nominations and Elections Report:** Butch Sage. Butch Sage. See the article on Page 14 in this *Super's Signal*. All four current officers are term-limited but may run for a different office if they wish to. Election nominations will close this November, with new terms beginning next Spring. Interested in running for office or nominating another person? Contact Butch Sage or Jim Kehn. (See Page 14)

**Car Project Report:** Greg Short. Greg has the new run of Accurail "Buckeye Steel Castings" gondola kits at the meeting. The members discussed possible pricing amounts. The Board will discuss the pricing and the next Steering Committee Meeting. The final pricing will be in the next *Signal* and the website's Store. (See Page 10)

**Train Show Report:** Greg Short. We have sold or received requests for 44 tables so far. We still need to promote the Train Show through our flyers, spreading the word at other meetings, et cetera. Other avenues include

social media, other publications, and two or three websites with calendars. Some division newsletters in the Mid Central Region have schedules of train shows and other railroad-related events. Further discussion included bringing our T-Trak modules. The Athens group is returning to the show. (See Page 14)

### Old Business:

**Division 6 Shirts:** Patrick Hreachmack. A total of 22 people have ordered 23 shirts, and the first batch is available for the members to pick up. Ordering a shirt will be available throughout this year. You should make payment at the time you place your order. Note: The first time you wash your new shirt, please use a cold water wash to avoid shrinkage. Thank you for being so supportive. (See Page 10)

**3-D Printed Car Body:** Jim Borcz. Car sides are available, and Jim assembled a sample. Don has a photo of all side and end variations. (See Page 13) Make your choice and go to the printer's website. Pat said that additional sides would soon be available. Use our discount code for 20% off for Division 6 members. Further discussion followed.

### New Business:

**Scams:** Mark Krueger. Mark warned us he tried out a website called "[roundhouseus.com](http://roundhouseus.com)" (not "[roundhouse-usa.com](http://roundhouse-usa.com)") He found his credit card posted to Google Pay and Apple Pay without permission. The Athearn graphics appeared spot on. He canceled his card and got another number. Pat has also crossed paths with model railroad scams, one in Canada and one on Facebook. Matt reminded us to look at the return "from" email address and to hover over the email to reveal the address that shows up. A demand for an urgent response is invariably a scam. Check your account separately from the email or other notice. Jim will send out the fraud reporting website that he uses. (See Page 8.)

### Club Reports:

No club member presented a club report.

### Contest Results:

**Contest:** Don Wilke for Jim Ruisinger. Jim's physical activities are more limited at present. He remains Photo & Contest Chair and will continue to run the Virtual Photo Contest. Don will help out with the Model Contest during our meetings. (See Page 9)

**July Contest Topic:** Shanties, Shacks, Shelters, & Sheds.

**Virtual Photo Contest.** The July photo contest winners are:

**Third Place:** Ken McDonough, *B&O "Tickets" Shed*

**Second Place:** Bob Baker, *Handcar Shed at Cumbres Pass*

**First Place:** Jim Oberst, *Wayside*

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

Continued: **Clerk's Report****Work Shack**

**Model Contest:** Winners are:

**Third Place:** Greg Short, *Yard Office*

**Second Place:** Don Wilke, *Abandoned MOW Shed*

**First Place:** Greg Short, *Farmers New Shed*

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who entered. Keep your entries coming; we love to see them.

The August contest is **Cabooses**. Members may enter photographs of models or prototypes from now through August 16, 2023. Members may vote on Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th. The Contest Chair will announce the winners at the Division 6 meeting on August 19.

**Raffle:** Scott Brown. Today's raffle winners were Bruce McDonald, Jim Borcz, John Howard, and Bob Smith.

The Special Raffle Prize is a wall-hanging shelf set for models. Tickets are still available for that prize.

We appreciate the members' support of the division by buying raffle tickets and donating raffle prizes. If you wish to donate a possible raffle prize, please get in touch with Scott Brown.

**Announcements**

**RPM Meet:** The Railroad Prototype Modelers group (RPM) is holding a meeting at Marion in October.

**Good of the Order**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:** The Steering Committee meetings take place every third Thursday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Any member may attend any Steering Committee meeting. Contact Superintendent Matt Goodman for the Zoom meeting link if interested.

**Next Division 6 Membership Meeting:** The next Division 6 meeting will be on Saturday, August 19, at 2:00 p.m. in Coshocton. Details will be on the Buckeye Division 6 website.

**Adjournment:**

After a motion and a second to adjourn, Matt adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

**Clinic:**

Ken McDonough presented his clinic on the NMRA Website. He showed both the public and members-only sections. It is a valuable resource on which we all should spend some time.

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



Thanks to Ken McDonough for providing an overview of the NMRA Website at our July meeting. Ken briefly looked at the information on the public and member-only sections of the website. To say there is a lot of excellent stuff there is an understatement. If you missed the meeting or would like to see it again, here's a link:

<https://youtu.be/LJJgGMNgjc0>

Note: There are several minutes of silence in the middle of the clinic due to a technical issue.

And thanks to the *Sunbury Model Railroad Club* for showing off the progress on their layout since last year's visit.

In August, Darrell Logan will present his clinic on **Painting Backdrop Clouds** at the Coshocton Club.

Due to space limitations, we will not have a clinic in September. Enjoy watching trains at the Zanesville Club. In November, Michael Percy will discuss **Sergent Engineering Couplers** in Mt Vernon. Greg Short will close out the year discussing **Modeling Firefighting Equipment** during our December meeting in Upper Arlington.

As always, drop me a line at [wvunion@gmail.com](mailto:wvunion@gmail.com) if you have an idea you'd like to present or a layout you'd like to share with others. We'll have both full-length and mini-clinics.

Clinics can count toward the *Author or Volunteer AP*. Check out the requirements for each to see which certificate your presentation qualifies.

## Division 6 – 2023 Time Table

Date	Event	Meeting	City
21 January (Change)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Hilltop Library</b> Clinic: <b>Map Maker: Using Google Maps to Build Maps of Non-existent</b> , Matt Goodman; <b>Using Maps to Research and Document Railroads - Two Case Studies</b> , Butch Sage Contest: Open Car with Load	Columbus
25 January	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
18 February	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Hilltop Library</b> Layout Tours: Matt Goodman, Darrell Logan Contest: Non-Revenue / MOW	Columbus
23 February	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
18 March	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Hilliard Library</b> Clinic: <b>How The Big Show Moved in The 1920's, The Ringling Brothers and Barnum &amp; Bailey Circus</b> , Jerry Severson Contest: Self Propelled & Non-Steam Locomotive	Hilliard
24 March	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
15 April	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Hilltop Library</b> Clinic: Contest: RR Served Structure, Not RR Owned	Columbus
29 April	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
4–7 May	MCR Convention	Virtual Photo Contest: Railroad Signals [No Model Contest]	Pittsburgh, PA
17 June Saturday	Division 6 Meeting	Annual Business Meeting: <b>Marion Union Station</b> Clinic: Mini Clinics: <b>East Broad Top Update</b> , Butch Sage; Look-back on the Hobby Through the Page of MR, Howdy Lamprecht; <b>Protecting your Decoders From Losing Their Mind</b> , Mike Wolf, MMR®; <b>Car Cards for Opposing Industries</b> , Carter Jastram; <b>Painting Clouds</b> , Darrell Logan; <b>Operation Lifesaver</b> , Connie Logan Model & Virtual Photo Contest: Favorite Train	Marion
22 June	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
15 July	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Sunbury Library</b> Clinic: <b>Overview of the NMRA Website</b> , Ken McDonough Model & Virtual Photo Contest: Shanties, Shacks, Shelters, & Sheds	Sunbury
27 July	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
19 August	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Coshocton Club</b> Clinic: <b>Painting Backdrop Clouds</b> , Darrell Logan Model & Virtual Photo Contest: Caboose(s)	Coshocton
24 August	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
16 September	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Zanesville Club</b> Open House: Zanesville Club Model & Virtual Photo Contest: Steam Locomotive	Zanesville
26 October	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>	No October <i>Signal</i>	
23 October	Division 6 Train Show	Train Show	Laughlin Center, Cambridge
26 October	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
18 November	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Mt. Vernon Library</b> Clinic: <b>Sergeant Engineering Couplers</b> , Michael Percy Model & Virtual Photo Contest: Closed Freight Car	Mt. Vernon
23 November	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
16 Dec (Tentative)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: <b>Upper Arlington Library</b> Clinic: <b>Modeling Firefighting Equipment</b> , Greg Short Model & Virtual Photo Contest: Passenger Car	Upper Arlington
21 Dec	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		

*Don't Just Belong, Participate!!*



# August 2023 Map

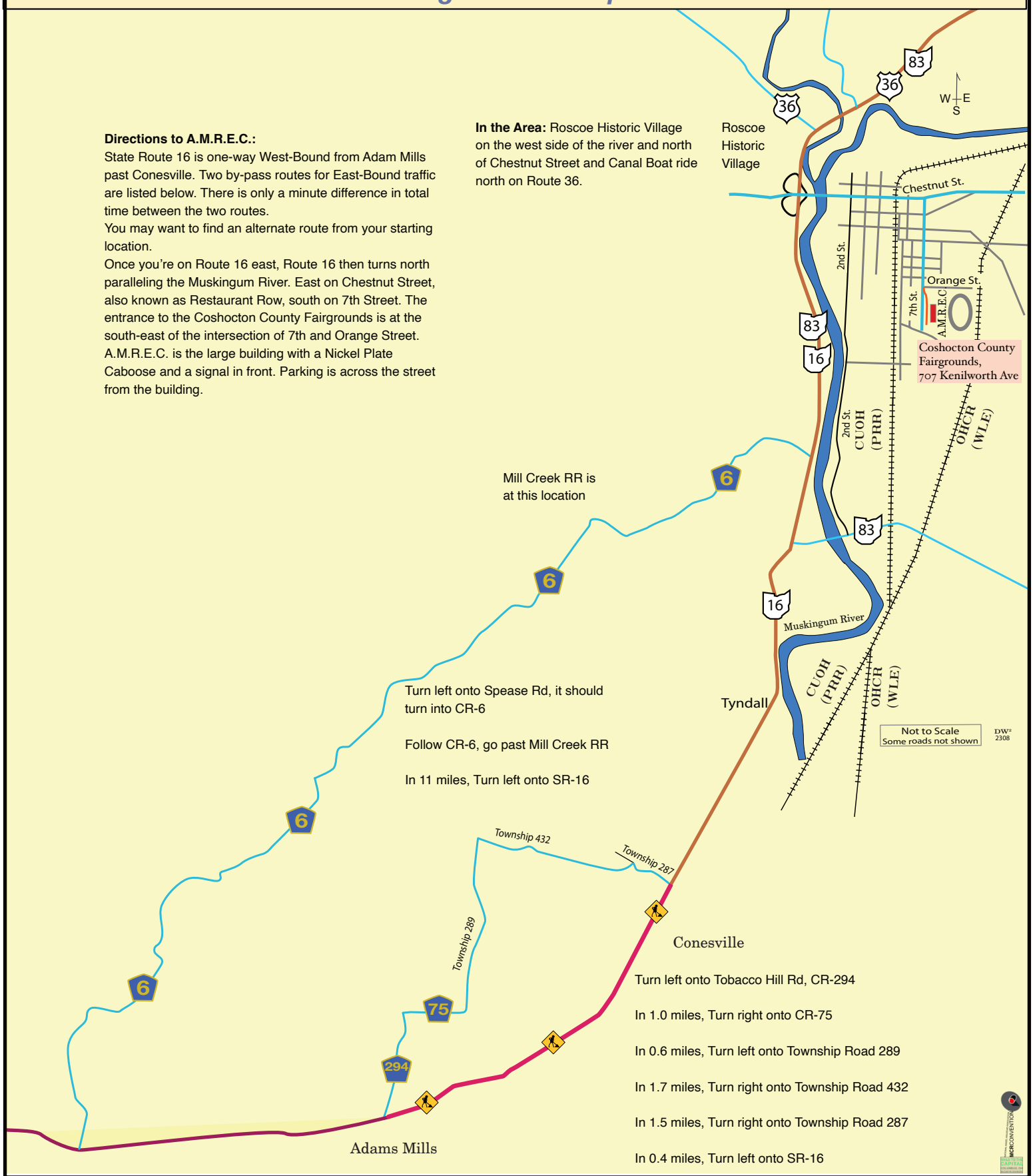
### Directions to A.M.R.E.C.:

State Route 16 is one-way West-Bound from Adam Mills past Conesville. Two by-pass routes for East-Bound traffic are listed below. There is only a minute difference in total time between the two routes.

You may want to find an alternate route from your starting location.

Once you're on Route 16 east, Route 16 then turns north paralleling the Muskingum River. East on Chestnut Street, also known as Restaurant Row, south on 7th Street. The entrance to the Coshocton County Fairgrounds is at the south-east of the intersection of 7th and Orange Street. A.M.R.E.C. is the large building with a Nickel Plate Caboose and a signal in front. Parking is across the street from the building.

**In the Area:** Roscoe Historic Village on the west side of the river and north of Chestnut Street and Canal Boat ride north on Route 36.



Turn left onto Spease Rd, it should turn into CR-6

Follow CR-6, go past Mill Creek RR

In 11 miles, Turn left onto SR-16

Turn left onto Tobacco Hill Rd, CR-294

In 1.0 miles, Turn right onto CR-75

In 0.6 miles, Turn left onto Township Road 289

In 1.7 miles, Turn right onto Township Road 432

In 1.5 miles, Turn right onto Township Road 287

In 0.4 miles, Turn left onto SR-16



## Protecting Decoders from Shorts

Mike Wolf, MMR

For those who missed the meeting in Marion or were in search of the parts mentioned in the clinic, here is a summary of my clinic. While I have installed some of the TVS diodes in locomotives, most of the information from my clinic came from an article by Roy Davis of the La Mesa (San Diego) Club and published in *Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine* in April 2022. A link to the article is shown below.

The article looked into why some decoders would have their CVs scrambled after a short circuit on the railroad. The decoders were not damaged. It became necessary to reprogrammed the CVs to function correctly. You can read about their research in the article, but they observed a large spike (> 25 volts) across the motor inputs when the short cleared. They hypothesized the problems with the CVs were a result of this spike. The solution they came up with was to use a *bi-directional Transient Voltage Suppression (TVS)* diode. The TVS will shunt (equalize) the voltage exceeding the normal operating voltages of the decoder. Since installing these diodes, the number of failures on their layout has been dramatically reduced.

The TVS diodes come in two form factors – a typical-coaxial barrel-shaped diode (Fig. 3) and a surface-mounted version (Fig. 1). Depending on the decoder, either is easy to install.

**Photo 1** shows the surface-mounted diode.

**Photo 2** shows how easy the installation of the surface-mounted version is for decoders with the motor outputs next to each other. The installation involves two quick taps of the soldering iron. Taking the shell off took more time than the installation.

**Photo 3** shows the standard diode version installed across the motor wires of a different decoder. While it involved cutting and stripping a couple of wires and applying some shrink tubing, it took less than 5 minutes.

You can find TVS diodes from numerous sources. Below are several examples. The part numbers will vary by supplier, but the key specifications you are looking for are **bi-directional, 16-volt, and high wattage (400-600 W)**. Choose 16 volts because it is greater than any voltage going to the motor. Note, O-Scalers may look for an if you run your track power higher than the 12-14v of most HO- or N-Scale systems. Here are the part numbers used in the article or that I found:

SMBJ16CA-13-F (surface mount in the article)

P6SMB16CA (surface mount) \$.50

P6KE16CA (standard format) \$.03

As you can see, if you have a problem child in your fleet, this may be a quick and inexpensive way to reduce problems. If you have any questions, I'm always available to help.



Figure 1  
Surface Mounted TVS Diode

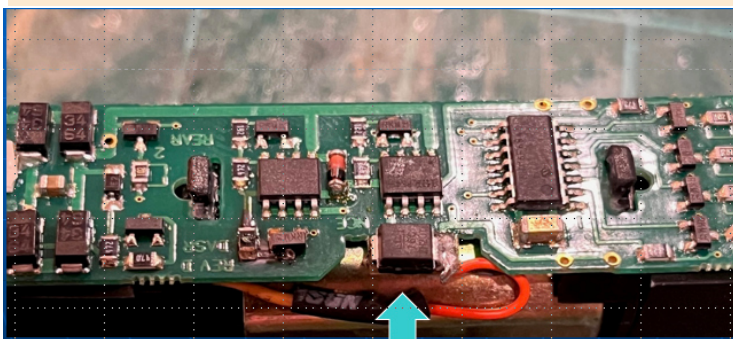


Figure 2  
Surface Mounted diode installed on the motor lead of a decoder

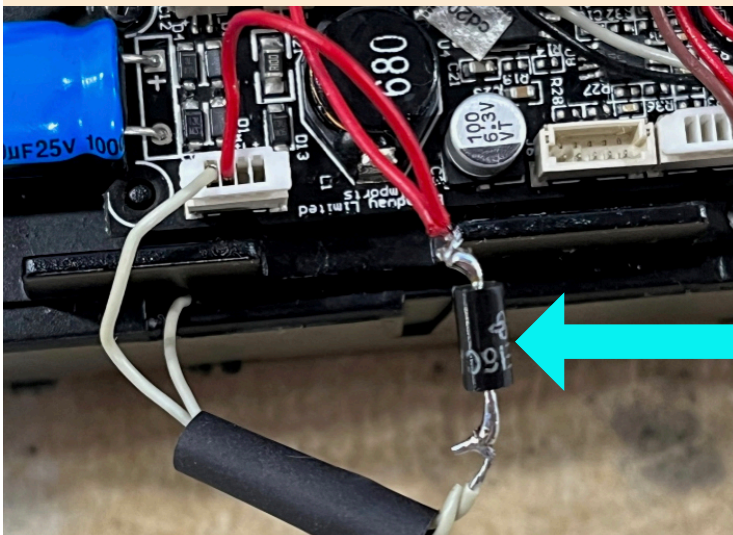


Figure 3  
Standard format TVS diode installed across the motor leads of the decoder

Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine Link: <https://forum.mrhmag.com/post/shortproofing-dcc-decoders-12330253>

## Phishing, Scams, and Spam Awareness

Matt Goodman, and Others (Including Thomas Niedhammer and The Ohio Attorney General)

At the Sunbury Division Meeting, a discussion about scams, and phishing emails came up. There was a good deal of helpful information shared at the meeting, information that I wanted to share.

I've adapted the following information from training I'm required to complete annually. In a workplace scenario, the goal is to protect the company against potential data or IP theft (or other nefariousness). Included is additional information from other sources. But the same best email practices can also help the average division member.

First, some definitions. Some of these overlap because different people use different definitions.

### Scam

**Dictionary:** A dishonest scheme; a fraud.

Common Scams:

- Grandparent Scam - A Grandchild is in trouble and needs money.
- Computer Scam - Your computer has a problem, and they can fix it. "Your Windows computer has a problem. Click here to contact a specialist." I ignore it because I work on a Mac.
- Payment Scam - "We have a check for you." or "You won a Sweepstake." or "Your check bounced."

### Spam

**Dictionary:** An irrelevant or inappropriate message sent on the internet to a large number of recipients

- Spam is generally sales related. They want you to buy something or talk to a sales associate.

### Phishing

Phishing is more urgent. You need to sign, click or open an attachment.

**Dictionary:** Phishing is the fraudulent practice of sending emails or other messages purporting to be from reputable companies to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

Malcontents use curiosity or fear to get you to open an attachment or enter credentials. Phishing is a form of social engineering; it's much easier to trick someone into giving information than using technical means (hacking) to dig it up!

### Things to look for in any email

Verify the sender. Check the name and ensure the email

address is exactly what you expected. Many email programs will show "Matt Goodman" as the sender. Generally, you can hover over the sender's name to see the actual email address it came from.

Be suspicious if the email wants you to do something right away. Threat actors may make something feel urgent or try to elicit an emotional response. This is a common tactic to get you to respond before you think. Slow down and be suspicious.

- Examples may be claims you've won a prize; an animal needs rescuing, or a claim that they detected unusual activity in your bank account.

Does the sender's content not "sound" like something they would write?

- Would Matt really ask you for a loan?

If the email has buttons or pictures that are links, hover your mouse over the image, but don't click on it. Your email program should show the actual email link as a tooltip or elsewhere on the screen.

- If you hover over a picture in Tony's Train Exchange email, the linked email address should match Tony's email address.

### In closing:

Be suspicious of every email, especially if they request immediate payment.

Don't interact with suspicious emails. "Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!"

Hover on the link, but don't click on it. The company name should appear after the @ symbol if it's a company.

Verify the email address. Check the spelling. If suspicious, contact the person through another method to ask if it is them.

Never allow someone to "remote access" your computer.

Use a credit card rather than a debit card or check. The Fair Billing Act offers certain protections other than payment don't.

### Contact:

\* The Ohio Attorney General's Identity Theft Unit at 800-282-0515. \* The Ohio State Auditor at - [fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov](mailto:fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov) or Auditor of Ohio State Special Investigations Unit - 1-866-FRAUD OH.

Remember Scammers love youth-challenged people.



## Contest Report

Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair



1st Place Virtual Photo  
by Jim Oberst  
Copyright by the entrant

### August Contests: *Caboose*

#### A word about Contests - Gonna keep harpin' on this!

We've tried to keep the subject matter pretty much the same from year to year, with a wrinkle or two from time to time. Members can plan ahead and have something to enter. The Model Contest requires that the model be present at the actual meeting.

But, we conduct the Photo Contests virtually via the web in order to allow as many members as possible to enter a photo without the need to attend the meetings. I'm puzzled that we have pretty much the same 10 - 15 members submitting photos and voting. Now, with 150+ members on the roster, that's pretty sad. We ARE all model railroaders and, almost by default, railroad photographers.

There really is no reason we can't have 20, 30, or even 40 or more photos entered. If you're like me, you've taken hundreds, if not thousands, of railroad-themed photos over the years. Dig through your photos and

**July Contest Winners:** [https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org/ContestFold/contest230715/Contest\\_230715.html](https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org/ContestFold/contest230715/Contest_230715.html)

### June Contest: *Shanties, Shacks, Shelters, and Sheds*

#### Virtual Photo Contest:

**1st Place:** Jim Oberst, *Wayside Work Shack*

**2nd Place:** Bob Baker, *Handcar shed at Cumbres Pass*

**3rd Place:** Ken McDonough, *B&O "Tickets" shed*

#### Model Contest:

**1st Place:** Greg Short, *Yard Office*

**2nd Place:** Don Wilke, *Abandoned MOW Shed*

**3rd Place:** Greg Short, *Farmers New Shed*



1st Place Model  
by Greg Short  
Copyright by Don Wilke

slides and dig out some good ones to enter. You can take slides to a photography shop and have them digitized to put on your computer. Plus, I imagine we have members who have slide scanners that can maybe help you out.

The rules are simple. The division member submitting the photo must have taken the photo. The photo can be either the prototype or a model. Take this as a challenge **ENTER THE PHOTO CONTESTS!!!!**

The Contest Committee is considering some new ideas for contest subjects. If any of you have ideas that might have broad appeal to our members, drop the Contest Chairman a note with your idea(s).



### The Mini Bunch Fall Meet The Meeting At The Glaze

Harry "Butch" Sage

The Mini Bunch Fall Meet will be in Defiance Sept. 29 - Oct. 1. Activities will include: clinics, swap tables, model contest, "Odd and Unusual" display, raffle, operating displays and more. While the Mini Bunch is primarily a narrow gauge group, all model railroaders are invited.

For more information please contact host Richard Witteborg at [rswitteborg@hotmail.com](mailto:rswitteborg@hotmail.com).



## Contest Point Summary July 2023

*Jim Ruisinger, Contest Chair*

### Modeler of the Year 2023

Greg Short	17	Connie Logan	3
Mike Wolf, MMR <sup>®</sup>	14	Don Wilke	3
Pat Hreachmack	4	Matt Goodman	2

### Photographer of the Year 2023

Mike Wolf, MMR <sup>®</sup>	12	Jim Oberst	5
Harry Sage	11	Rick Brown	4
George Stringer	10	Scott Brown	4
Matt Goodman	9	Darrell Logan	4
Don Wilke	9	Bob Baker	2
Mark Kruger	6	Doug Kullman	2
Connie Logan	6	Howdy Lamprecht, MMR <sup>®</sup>	2
Jim Ruisinger	5	Matt Fisher	1
Ken McDonough	5	Jim Kehn	1

### Company Store Update

*Greg Short*

The gondola kits are here, and sales have started. As of this message, we still do not have the final price for the gondolas on the website. But, we are offering the kits to the membership for \$25. This price is only good if a division member purchases the kits for personal use. Members must pay for and pick up the gondola at a division meeting. We will have the price for shipping the kits and how to order them by the next *Signal*.



### Buckeye Division Shirts

*Pat Hreachmack*

As of July 7, Division 6 has 14 members who have ordered 15 shirts (one member ordered two!) All these orders are in the hands of Jim Kehn's wife, Suzi.

The value of the ordered shirts is \$478. Of this amount ordered, there is still \$158 due from members who have ordered shirts, INCLUDING our fearless leader!

You will recall that the red shirts are Jerzees oxford with a collar and short sleeves. There is a pocket on the left chest. The Oxford shirts are a 47/53% cotton/polyester blend. The Division 6 logo will be on one side, and your name will be on the other side. Please write your name as you want it to appear on your shirt.

Prices have increased slightly and now are small, medium, and large for \$30 each. X-large is \$32. XX-large through 5X large are \$35.

If you have not ordered a shirt, please get your money and order to Patrick or Carter before or during our next Division Meeting. For those of you who have ordered but not yet paid, your funds are due by the closure of our next division meeting.

Come on, NMRA Members, look sharp as a unit and order your shirts before we announce any price change.



## Facebook Groups

Jim Kehn

First, let me state that I DO NOT do Facebook FRIENDS or any of that stuff where you have to live on a cell phone. It is hard to text your thoughts, etc., on a flip phone! It takes me at least 15 minutes to text OK on it.

I have heard that some of you don't do any Facebook groups for various reasons. That's your choice, but you may miss a lot of fun and knowledge. I belong to many FaceBook Groups, most relating to railroads, model railroads, or historic sites. The number of photos I have found of old depots, towers, buildings, etc., etc., is astounding. The information and photos on modeling sites can be inspirational. If you post comments and engage in banter with others of a like mind, you can learn and teach things. Over time you learn what to post and what not to post. The best policy is to be respectful to everyone. Facebook Groups can be a great aid in modeling and other research.

Some of the sites I belong to are:

All the Pennsylvania Railroad, B&O, NKP, NYC, DT&I, etc., etc. groups.

Others include such groups as: Columbus Railroads, 2 Rail and P48 Modeling, On30 Railroading, Pre-Depression Era Railroad Modelers, The Brass Backshop, Old Photos of Forgotten Ohio, Old Pictures of Northern Ohio, historical groups for Fairfield and Coshocton Counties, and many more. There is probably a group for any interest.

I download many photos daily from these sites and keep files on various subjects. I have a file on old Ohio buildings, grain elevators and models, and prototype and model photos that catch my eye.

The Facebook Groups make research a snap. Do you have a question? Post it, and someone will have an answer.

The only downside to all this "researching" is the amount of time spent on the computer and not at the workbench!

Yesterday, I was researching Plain City, Ohio, and found a Facebook Groups Plain City chat group. Usually, these are public sites; you can access their photos without joining. I had to join because I asked a question about a photo. Fair enough. I call this "mining" for photos, and you must wade through numerous pages of school year-books, etc., etc. Then you will get to some real finds you probably won't see elsewhere. I found these photos, (Figures 1 and 2) which I didn't know were out there.

By The Way: I worked out of the Plain City depot (Figure



**Figure 1**  
**PRR Bradford Side Plain City with depot,  
factory, and grain elevator**



**Figure 2**  
**PRR Bradford Side Plain City, Ohio  
aerial view of Nau Grain Co.**



**Figure 3**  
**PRR Bradford Side Plain City, Ohio  
depot looking west**

3) on temporary blocks in the 1970s. Neat old place!  
I wish they had saved it. You can't even tell that a double-track railroad ran through that town nowadays!





## Mid-Century Scale Model Vehicle Manufacturers

Matt Goodman

I model in the year 1938. I always have my eyes open for manufacturers who sell HO-Scale vehicles in my time-frame. This briefly lists some of the companies I have experience with. Most companies also manufacture models from later periods and some offer kits in additional scales.

### Sylvan Scale Models

(<https://sylvanscalemodels.com>) Sylvan Scale Models is a Canada-based company that manufactures a wide array of resin-cast vehicle kits in N, HO, and O. These include cars, panel vans, pickup trucks, straight trucks, semi-trucks, beer trucks, etc. Their models represent vehicles built from 1927 through 1964. They have been my go-to company for “modern” cars – they produce a whopping 30+ vehicles that fit my timeframe. Prices range from about \$15 to \$24, and assembly is straightforward.



Figure 1  
Sylvan Scale Models

### Artitec Shop

(<https://www.artitecshop.com/en/vehicles/>) Artitec is an Amsterdam company that produces a variety of products. In the vehicle range, they offer both kit and ready-made in N, HO and (being European), TT. They cover everything from horse-drawn wagons to bulldozers and agricultural vehicles. The ones that interest me are several early Ford Models T's and A's, Bucyrus shovels, and other commercial vehicles. I have one ready-made Model T; the assembly, detail, and paint are exquisite! Prices start at \$15 for kits and \$40 for ready-built.



Figure 2  
Sylvan Scale Models

### Custom Model Depot

(<https://custommodeldepot.com>) Custom Model Depot is an American company. They are brand-new to the market, specializing in 3D printed models developed from 3D scanning. They produce structures, details, machinery, freight car trucks, and vehicles in HO, S, and O. His vehicle range covers cars and light trucks from 1932 to 1964. I've recently received my first order from him. My first impression is sharper detail than Sylvan, with similar assembly. HO-Scale car prices are about \$10, and O-Scale is nearly double that.

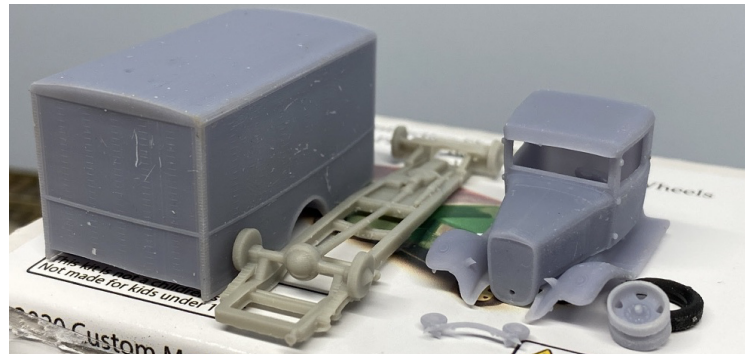


Figure 3  
Custom Model Depot

Other manufacturers in the ready-made category may be more widely known. On my layout, I have representatives from Ricko (a big old 1932 Cadillac), Athearn (Model A cars and trucks), Woodland Scenics (generic police sedan), and Oxford Diecast (nicely done 1936 Buick).

Of this bunch, the Ricko and Oxford models stand out but have limited selections in my era. The Athearn and Woodland Scenics cars are solid models but are relatively uninspiring. These models are great as background models. Jordan also made beautiful models that fit the early end of my time frame, but they are now out of business and can be hard to find.





Figure 1  
Beer Cars Sides



Figure 2  
Food Cars Sides

signer, to design a car shell for the cardboard sides. We wanted to create a car body to accept Matt's cardboard billboard car sides. We were providing a simple, colorful, inexpensive car kit. You only needed to supply the trucks, couplers, and any other details you wanted.

The basic car body comes in two lengths - a 40-foot car for wooden sides and a 50-foot car for steel sides. The car body has a recess the sides will fit into. The 40-foot car body's recess will hold the Matt's cardboard sides.

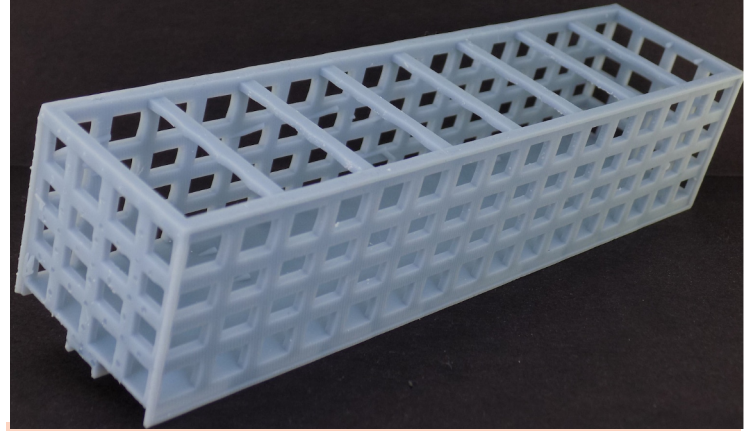


Figure 3  
Cars Body

The car body has some under-body detail.

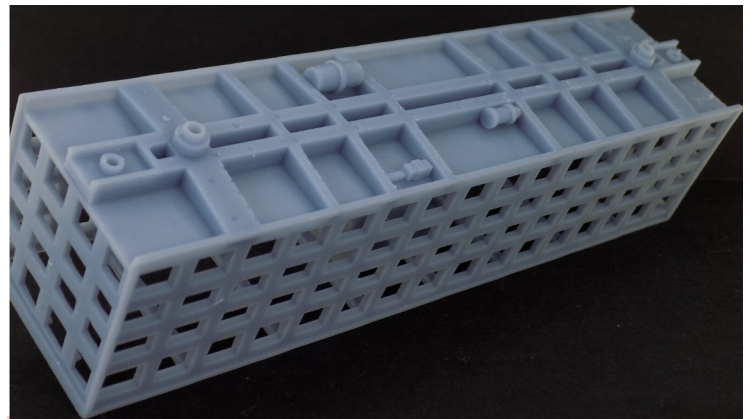


Figure 4  
Car Underbody

The top of any car body needs a roof. You can order the roof with or without ice hatches.

The website gives you four choices. A wooden car body with or without ice hatches. A steel car body with or without ice hatches. Each car body with a roof's cost is \$15. When ordering a car body, you can ask to have one set on Matt's cardboard sides included at no additional expense.

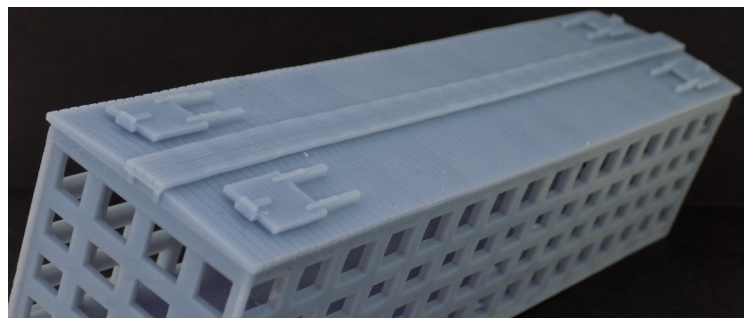
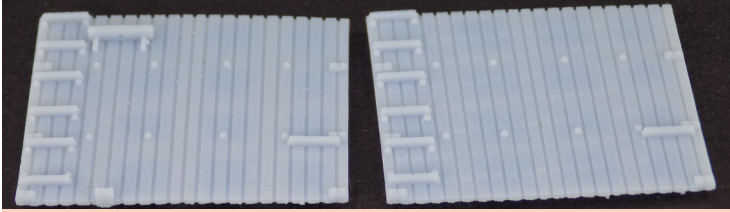


Figure 5  
Car Roof With Ice Hatches

Some of Matt's card sides come with matching car ends. If Matt doesn't have the car ends for the car sides you ordered, you can order matching 3D-printed car ends. A button "Select an option" will add two car ends for an extra dollar.



**Figure 6**  
**Cars Ends**

Jim had a completed car with a few extra details added.



**Figure 7**  
**Food Cars Sides**

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/NekoDyneMiniatures?coupon=DIV6MCR>

## 2024 Buckeye Division Election of Officers

Harry "Butch" Sage

Buckeye Division Elections Teller

Our current officers' terms of office run through May 2024. Those officers are all term-limited, meaning they may not run for re-election. They could run for a different position should they choose to do so.

The *Buckeye Division Regulations* state that next year's election nominations are due by our November Division Meeting. Officer Candidates must be a member of the Buckeye Division. The Buckeye Division Nominating Committee may accept nominations by presentation of a petition with signatures from five division members. Or

by a nomination during the November Division Meeting. Please note the Nominating Committee can not accept the nomination of a division member without their permission.

The Nominating Committee, being myself and Jim Kehn. We are looking for division members interested in running for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster, or Chief Clerk offices. Please consider running for one of these positions and sharing your knowledge and experience with the division.

## Train Show Update

Greg Short

As of July 15, we have shy of 50 tables sold. This is a good number for how far we are out. Advertising for the show is ongoing, with flyers at the other train shows for some time. Mike Wolf has been getting the show listed on numerous websites and calendars. Mike will send Train Show flyers to area hobby shops and clubs soon. We are getting onto the radio and newspapers of the area. We are also getting ready to get the Facebook ad started again. One thing we all need to do is get the word out to other model railroaders. We all have friends in the hobby but are not NMRA members, and they are welcome to attend the show. Please let Mike Wolf or myself know if anyone can think of a place to put flyers or advertise (for Free). Also, when you see Mike, thank him for all his work for the show. Mike has taken on getting the advertising done, taking that work from me. He is allowing me to concentrate on dealing with the venue, vendors, and the all-important food stand.



# Fifth Annual NMRA Division 6

# Train Show

## Cambridge Ohio

**Sunday**

**October 22, 2023**

**10 am to 3 pm**



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

**Pritchard Laughlin Center**

**7033 Glenn Hwy**

**Cambridge OH 43725**



**OPERATING  
MODEL TRAINS**

**HANDICAP ACCESS**

**ALL SCALES**

**ACCESSORIES**

**SCENERY**

**HOBBY TOOLS & SUPPLIES**

**Checkout our website for a listing for more information:**

<https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/trainshow.html>

**Vendors Contact Greg - (740) 607-3223 - [trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org)**

