

Super's Signal

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

February 2024

Superintendent's Report

Matt Goodman, Division 6 Superintendent

Wow, we got a lot done in the last quarter of 2023! I realized this while preparing for the Hilltop Meeting in January. Here's a list of things that are either done or very close to done.

- In October, we put on our most successful Cambridge Train Show yet.
- We started delivering our Buckeye Steel gondolas, our first car project since 2016.
- We developed a PPM (Policy and Procedure Manual). This document describes the essential responsibilities of each office and standing committee. It serves as a quick reference for existing officers and chairs and also as a "ramp-up" document for new ones.
- We updated our tax standing with the State of Ohio and the IRS. The former will ensure we comply with Ohio sales tax collections (triggered by our car project and the Convention Banquet). The latter will result in a non-profit status for Division 6, which will benefit our Convention finances.
- We started planning our *Buckeye Express Convention* for 2025.

Thanks to everyone who did the heavy lifts and the supporting help on these items. A special callout goes to Greg Short, Don Wilke, Butch Sage, Mike Wolf, Carter Jastram, and Ken McDonough for their efforts. We are lucky to have this group.

Jim Ruisinger Update

Since Don published my last *Super's Signal* article, division members can find Jim Ruisinger's obituary below:

We now seek someone to take on the Model and Photo Contest job. Whoever takes on this role can leave the process as it is or transform it into something com-

Jim's Obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/james-ruisinger-obituary?id=54062762>

18 February (*Sunday*) Division 6 Meeting Barnett Library 3434 East Livingston Ave. Columbus

1:00: Barnett Library opens

1:00: Social gathering at Barnett Library

1:05: Contest submissions open

1:40: Contest submissions closes; Voting begins

1:50: Contest Voting ends

2:00: Division 6 Meeting

Clinic: *Steam Locomotive Water Cycle*, Matt Goodman

Virtual Photo Contest: *Non-Revenue / MOW*

Model Contest: *Non-Revenue / MOW*

pletely different. If you're interested, contact me or Don Wilke.

Greg Short has offered to support the photo contest (working with Don). This support is to be a short-term solution. Both have too many irons in the fire!

Buckeye Express Convention Meeting

On January 11th, Convention Chair Greg Short called the first organizational meeting for the *Buckeye Express*. Look for more details from him elsewhere in the *Signal*.

The high level is that we have 6 of 11 Chair positions that need filling. Contact Greg to get involved!

Sunday Meetings

We have scheduled our division meetings for about last five years on the third Saturday of the month, with some exceptions. The thinking behind this was to have a consistency that people could plan around, even if we hadn't decided on the actual date and location.

The Super's Report
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DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

Superintendent

Matt Goodman:
30 S. Algonquin Ave., Columbus,
Ohio 43204
Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Assistant Superintendent

Dexter Hill:
AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Clerk

Carter Jastram:
DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Pay Master

Jim Borcz:
Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Directors

Ken McDonough
Donald Wilke,
Mike Wolf, MMR[®]: (all Directors)
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
Super's Signal Pub.: Don Wilke
SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org

Division 6 Web Site:

www.div6-mcr-nmra.org

Mid Central Region President:

Dave Neff
president@midcentral-region-nmra.org

NMRA Central District

Director:
Robert Beaty, MMR[®]

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Wilke

*Clerk's Report
Buckeye Division,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Membership Meeting
Hilltop Library
21 January 2024*

Carter Jastram, Clerk

Call to Order

he Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Matt Goodman, Division 6
Superintendent, at 2:03 p.m.

Division 6 Officers Present:

Superintendent	Matt Goodman
Clerk	Carter Jastram
Paymaster	Jim Borcz
Director	Ken McDonough
Director	Don Wilke
Director	Mike Wolf, MMR [®]

Division 6 Chairs Present:

Company Store	Greg Short
Contest	Don Wilke
Membership	Ken McDonough
Membership Retention	Bruce McDonald
Programs	Mike Wolf, MMR [®]
Raffle	Scott Brown
Super's Signal Publisher	Don Wilke
Train Show	Greg Short
Webmaster	Don Wilke

Absent:

Assistant Superintendent	Dexter Hill
Achievement Program	Dick Briggs, MMR [®]
Inspector of Elections	Harry "Butch" Sage

Announcements:

Highlights: Matt Goodman.

Matt discussed highlights of the division's accomplishments for 2023. *The Cambridge Train Show* was very successful. The car project (Buckeye Steel Castings gons) has been underway since August. Buy cars from Greg Short.

Policies and Procedures Manual: Don Wilke and Butch Sage have written a draft *Policies and Procedures Manual* (PPM). They designed the PPM to give current or prospective officers or chairs a description of their duties. The Board of Directors will vote on the PPM at its March meeting. The *Division 6 Regulations* are available on the website's *About Us Page*. The PPM will be on the same page after its approval. We express our thanks to Don and Butch for their efforts and to the Chairs and Officers who gave them input.

Tax Status: Greg has been collecting sales tax on our BSC gondolas. Mike Wolf completed the first sales tax filing for cars sold last year. The bank will transfer funds from the bank account to the state later this week. Additionally, Mike will complete other annual reports required by the state for our non-profit status later this year. Our 501(c)3 determination is moving along. Ken and Carter are working out one last detail.

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

Continued: **Clerk's Report**

North Coast Express Convention: We watched a Zoom presentation on the *2024 MCR Convention* by Jerry Kruger last month. They would like us to register now so they have an expected attendance count. They are putting clinics together and finishing other details as well. So far, there are 21 layouts on their tour, with one layout at most a one-hour drive away. The *Hocking Valley Ohio Central* is a 1920s operating modular layout that will also be present at the *2024 Convention*. Their Contest Chair is tweaking the schedule so that Award Certificates are on the table with the models by Saturday morning when the contest room is still open. Visit the website at www.northcoastlimited2024.org.

Matt was happy to welcome **Dave Wetterstroem** back to our meeting. He works Saturdays so that he can attend our Sunday meetings. He models the C&O in the transition era and expects his 50-Year Member Certificate from National later this year.

Reports:

Clerk's Report: Carter Jastram. The membership approved the Clerk's Report of the December member meeting, as published in the January 2024 *Super's Signal*, pp. 2-4.

Paymaster's Report: Jim Borcz. Jim read off the current balances in the accounts. Greg Short has a check for our deposit on this October's *Cambridge Train Show*. We will send the tax collected on our gondola sales to the State of Ohio. Jim has two size large NYC shirts from Connie to give to whomever they will fit.

The Division's 3D-printed car is also still available. The available car sides are on the Division 6 website if someone cannot attend a meeting. Members can request car sides when ordering a car from the supplier's website. Put the request in the comments section. The sides will ship with the car.

Darrell, Don, and Carter have agreed to audit the Paymaster's accounts before new officers take over in May. The membership approved the Paymaster's Report, pending audit.

Program Report: Mike Wolf. The division will meet at the Barnett Branch Library on East Livingston Avenue in February. The meeting is at the Northside Branch Library on North High Street Library in March. April's meeting location is at the Gahanna Library, and the *Cleveland MCR Convention* is in May. For the schedule of clinics, please see the *Clinics Corner* article in the *Super's Signal*.

Communications Reports, Webmaster: Don Wilke. Don will post the contest winners and the Welcome page update by Monday or Tuesday

Super's Signal Report: Don Wilke. The deadline for the February issue of the *Signal* is this Thursday, the 25th. If an article is not quite ready, please inform Don

how much space it will need. Don plans to set up the *Super's Signal* next weekend and include some older items

Membership Report: Ken McDonough. We continue to have 142 active division members, including six renewals in December. No members are in the 30-days-past and three in the 60-days-past categories. We discussed renewal reminders. The National sends out reminders, but one from a local or known person might mean more to a prospective renewal. The recent MCR meeting also discussed some recruiting ideas. At this month's *Great American Train Show*, Darrell was giving away back issues of the *NMRA Magazine* and included our Cambridge Train Show flyers. Another thought is to include a nine-month Railpass flyer and a local contact. Tracking responses to our outreach efforts would help us know what is effective.

Retention and Recruitment Report: Mike Wolf. Mike thanks all the helpers who set up and ran our NMRA promotion table at the *Great American Train Show* last weekend. The volunteers collected feedback for the recruiting booth. The Retention & Recruitment Committee will be implementing some of those recommendations. Thanks to Howdy for organizing the volunteers and schedule.

Achievement Program Report: Dick Briggs. There was nothing to report at this time.

Nominations and Elections Report: Butch Sage. Nominations for the four Officer positions will close at the Division 6 Meeting on February 18. We still need a candidate for Superintendent. Matt promoted the position, and Greg said it was an easy job.

Buckeye Express 2025 Convention: Greg Short. We have a good core committee and are well on our way. We need to fill some positions, such as organizing clinics, overseeing the contest room and the company store, and organizing programs. Terry Bacus will be our T-TRAK Coordinator for the Convention. Greg can put a list of needed jobs in the *Super's Signal*. We need to prepare a presentation for the May 2024 Convention banquet. It covers when, where, and how much the 2024 Convention costs. Our 2025 guest speaker is Stu Nicholson, former director of All Aboard Ohio and otherwise involved in several aspects of railroading. The hotel Contract is signed, and the room-night rates cover the costs of the meeting spaces. Establishing our 501(c)3 status will save us the 7-1/2% tax rate on the banquet cost. The Convention Committee first met on January 11 and will meet next on February 22 at the New Albany Library.

Old Business:

Division 6 Shirts: Patrick Hreachmack. Pat encourages all to order a shirt. We make a significant impact when we wear them.

New Business:

There was no New Business to take up.

The Clerk's Report
Continued on Page 4.

Club Reports:

Central Ohio Model Railroad Club (COMRC, Columbus, www.comrc.club): John Madden reports that the Club will have the interior space completely reworked. It involves removing some walls, building a permanent HO layout, and repositioning other layouts. Planning will take time. The Club will discuss the renovations at the next members' meeting on January 23 at 7 p.m.

Delaware County Model Railroaders Group (Sunbury): Ken McDonough tells us the Club rebuilt the exterior ramp and stairs. The Sunbury Group is not sure they can remain past 2025. Preservation Parks might have other plans in mind for the building.

Janis Center Model Railroad Club (JCRC, Columbus): Connie reported that she and Darrell will host the next quarterly meeting of the Club at their house on March 6 at 2:30 p.m. After the meeting, the Logans will open their layout, and its expansion. The new club building, recently named the Fran Ryan Center, is under construction at East Broad and Ohio, where Douglass Elementary used to be.

Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers Club (Medina, neols.net): Jim Borcz recently sent out their schedule, and it is available.

Contest Results:

Contest Certificates: Don Wilke. Greg Short handed out certificates to previous contest winners Matt Goodman, Butch Sage, Mike Wolf, Greg Short, and Scott Brown. Doug Kullman and Howdy Lamprecht were not here to receive theirs.

Greg Short will temporarily take over part of the contest duties. He will assume the job of receiving Virtual Photo Contest entries and handling the voting. Don will do the same with the models at the meetings. They are looking for a division member to take on this role permanently. For now, they will reuse most of the 2023 contest categories and are considering holding more bring-and-brags.

February Contest Topic: Non-Revenue / MOW

January Virtual Photo Contest—Open Loads: There were no photo contest entries.

January Model Contest Winners are:

Third Place: Greg Short, *Westinghouse Turbine Transport*

Second Place: Bob Lee, *MKT Flat Car with Large Pump*

First Place (Tie): George Stringer, *Two Steam Shovels on Two Flat Cars*, and Bob Lee, *Old Transformer Load*
The February contest is **Non-Revenue and Maintenance of Way**. The Contest Chair will announce the winners at the Division 6 meeting on February 18. Remember, a member may only enter photos taken by one-

self.

Please watch for contest announcements via Division 6 MailChimp (email) and the *Super's Signal*. Prepare your photos in electronic form. And bring your models for the Division 6 Meeting. Starting **in January 2024, the cutoff time for entering and voting in the Virtual Photo Contest will be earlier in the evening**. Please read the new instructions carefully when they arrive.

Raffle:

Scott Brown. Today's raffle winners were Greg Short, George Stringer, Jim Borcz, and Bob Lee. Enjoy your winnings!

Fifteen tickets remain for the Special Raffle. It's a framed reproduction of Thomas Stahl's *All Aboard* painting portraying the Parkersburg, WV, depot in the early 1950s. Watch for a raffle survey from Scott via SurveyMonkey.

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, don't hesitate to contact Scott Brown.

Announcements:

Donated Railroad Books: Division 6 has a variety of railroad books donated by members. They are available to anyone for a suggested donation to the Division of \$10 each. Carter promoted two of them in particular. A history of the building of eastern side of The Transcontinental Railroad *Nothing Like It in the World* by Stephen Ambrose. And Don Ball, Jr's photographic book *Portrait of the Rails*.

Good of the Order

Next Steering Committee Meeting: The Steering Committee meetings occur 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 you are interested.

Next Division 6 Membership Meeting: The next Division 6 Meeting will be on **Sunday, February 18**, at 2:00 p.m. at the **Barnett Branch Library**. The Library will open at 1 p.m.

Adjournment:

After a motion and a second to adjourn, Matt adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Clinic:

Mark Krueger presented a clinic titled *Easy Rolling Stock Weathering*. He shared a variety of products and techniques, as well as several samples to pass around. The division recorded the clinic to make it available for membership viewing. We express our appreciation to Mark. We encourage anyone with an idea or an experience to talk with Mike Wolf about sharing a clinic at a future date.

Continued: **The Super's Report**

At various times since then, members with Saturday conflicts have requested that we shift some meetings to Sunday. In response, after discussions with the Board, I asked Assistant Super Dexter Hill to schedule about half of our 2024 meetings on the third Sunday.

The first Sunday meeting was at the *Hilltop Library* on January 11th, and I saw some new faces there. So far, so good! Please keep the feedback coming, and watch our meeting announcements a little closer to ensure you don't miss a meeting.

Great American Train Show

January's *Great American Train Show* fell on a bitterly cold weekend. Despite that, the turnout on Sunday was the best I can remember. Our Membership Table also

had neighbors this year, which helped attract more visitors than the lonely table we had in the past. Division member Connie Logan brought her Operation Lifesaver items, which were a huge attraction to the young crowd. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and labor. Look elsewhere in the *Signal* for more information.

January Meeting at Hilltop Library

Mark Krueger gave an interesting talk on *Quick Weathering Techniques*. Thanks, Mark! Check Mike's *Clinic Corner* for more information and a link to YouTube to see his talk. Unfortunately, some data issues made the video a bit jerky in places, but the audio is perfect.

Time to drop the fire!



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*.



2024 Buckeye Division Election of Officers

Harry "Butch" Sage

Buckeye Division Elections Teller

The next Buckeye Division election, scheduled for early 2024, is for the four officer positions. The officers are all term-limited, and they cannot run for re-election. They can run for a different office should they so choose.

The nominating process is open and will conclude at the **February Buckeye Division Meeting**. Are you interested in running for one of the four positions? Don't hesitate to contact me and let me know which position you wish to run for. You can also seek nomination by presenting a petition during the February division meeting. You can also seek nomination by announcing your interest during the February meeting. Details on how to do this are in the Buckeye Division's Regulations located at:

https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/AboutFold/Division_6_Regulations_220225.pdf

Please consider becoming active in the leadership and management of your Buckeye Division.

Harry "Butch" Sage hsage3@yahoo.com

Nominations Committee Chair



Economic Benefits of Amtrak Service to Central Ohio!



The *Columbus Dispatch* recently ran an article by Mark Ferencik about the economic benefits of a new Amtrak service to Central Ohio.

The non-profit rail advocacy group **All Aboard Ohio** commissioned an economic impact study by *Scioto Analysis*. The study found that ongoing ridership would generate \$3.9 million to \$7.2 million in new wages annually. The study is at allaboardohio.org.

Rob Moore of *Scioto Analysis* said annual ridership in Columbus would be 133,000 to 268,000 yearly. The new Cincinnati-Dayton-Columbus-Cleveland service would initially create 400-520 jobs, with 60 to 110 jobs a year after that.

The economic impact in Greater Columbus would be \$36 million to \$48 million at first, with a \$9 million to \$16

million annual impact a year after that.

Moore said that the study estimates that the initial investment for service between Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Cleveland would generate \$106 million to \$107 million in gross state product. After that, the corridor would continue to contribute \$25 to \$47 million to gross state product per year through ridership.

The service would also help the environment by reducing car pollutants. It would help reduce the number of vehicle crashes because of fewer automobile miles traveled, he said.

The federal government provided \$500,000 for planning for each of the four routes for this planning round.

The \$500,000 is to prepare cost estimates for the state and local governments matching funds for future planning rounds. The following planning round requires a 10% matching fund. It would determine the basic structure, best route, station locations, passing sidings, train length, frequency, etc. It would propose a budget for the next planning round and determine the construction cost.

Passenger trains would share the track with freight trains, and freight trains get priority. John Esterly, an **All Aboard Ohio** board member, said there are concerns about capacity, but he said there is room for Amtrak.

Marc Magliari, an Amtrak spokesman, said Amtrak recognizes that trains must be competitive with freeways. "Speed's important," he said. But he said what drives ridership is reliability, frequency, and competitive fares.

Erin Rosiello, **All Aboard Ohio's** chair, said, "You're not going to replace cars, that's never going to happen." But trains would help reduce traffic congestion and provide options for people without cars or driver's licenses, she said.

Service isn't expected to come to Columbus until 2030 at the earliest. The last year Amtrak passed through Columbus was 1979, a route between Kansas City, Missouri, and New York City.

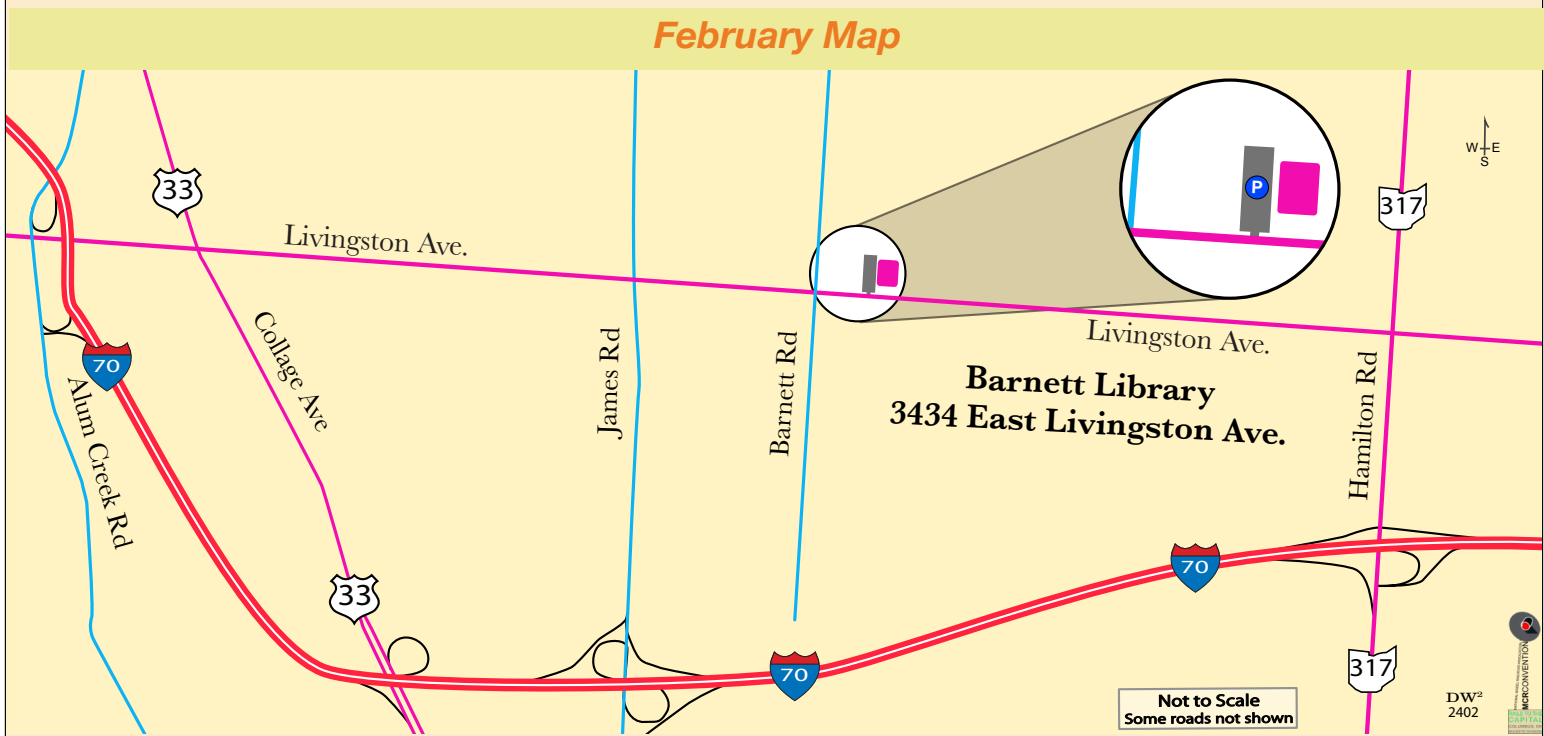
Buckeye Division Special Raffle

Scott Brown

At the recent January meeting, we sold the remaining 17 raffle tickets for the Special Raffle Prize. We will plan on drawing the winner of the All Aboard framed lithograph print of the oil painting by Thomas H Stahl at the February meeting. Jim Ruisinger donated the framed print. Let me know if you need any additional information.

Division 6 – 2024 Time Table

Date	Event	Meeting	City
21 January (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Hilltop Library Clinic: Quick Rollin Stock Weathering Techniques , Mark Krueger Contests: Open Car with Load	Columbus
26 January	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
18 February (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Barnett Library (Livingston Library) Clinic: Steam Locomotive Water Cycle , Matt Goodman Contests: Non-Revenue / MOW	Columbus
23 February	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
16 March (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Northside Library (Meeting Room 1) Clinic: Canadian Pacific Railway: The Big Hill and Spiral Tunnels , Bob Baker Contests: Non-Steam Locomotive	Columbus
21 March	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
21 April (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Gahanna Library (Meeting Rooms 2 &3) Mini Clinics: Contests: Railroad Served Structure, Not RR Owned	Columbus
29 April	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		
16-19 May	MCR Convention	The North Coast Limited	Cleveland, OH
15 June Saturday	Division 6 Meeting	Annual Business Meeting: Marion Union Station Mini Clinics: Estate Planning , Butch Sage; Scenery Beginning to end , Darrell Logan Contests: Favorite Train	Marion
22 June	<i>Super's Signal Deadline</i>		



Share the Knowledge!!



Thanks to Mark Krueger for his clinic on *Quick Weathering Techniques That Don't Involve an Airbrush*. A clinic recording is available online for those who missed the meeting or would like to see it again.

<https://youtu.be/4PcFP6J905A>

Join us at the Barnett Library (formerly the Livingston Library) in February. Matt Goodman will trace the *Cycle of Water Through a Steam Locomotive*, beginning with its introduction into the boiler and the appliances on the locomotive that it passes through. He'll also discuss water treatment and water delivery.

Bob Baker will present *Canadian Pacific Railway: The Big Hill and Spiral Tunnels* in March. The CPR completed its transcontinental line in 1885. The CPR faced significant operational challenges presented by a section of 4.5% grade through the Kicking Horse Pass. Bob will discuss the historical context of the line's original construction and operations on the "Big Hill" from 1885 until 1909, when the Railway constructed the Spiral Tunnels to remedy this situation. Bob will illustrate the construction of these tunnels, the line's new alignment, and operations with maps and photographs.

Lastly, in April, plan on a Bring and Brag session. Save examples of your recent modeling (or blow the dust off older ones) to share in this easy-to-prepare format.

Two clinicians have volunteered for our Marion meeting in June, but I still have plenty of openings throughout 2024. As Matt mentioned at the meeting, it's an excellent time to practice your clinic, as we'll need many volunteers to present at our Regional Convention in 2025.

As always, drop me a line at 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.

Buckeye Division Shirts

Pat Hreachmack

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.

Division 6 on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/user/nmrabuckeyedivision

Division 6 in Facebook:
NMRA Buckeye Division [in search field]

Division 6 Email Group:
NMRABuckeyeDivision@groups.io

Contest Report

Contest Chair

January Contest: Open Freight Car with Load

Virtual Photo Contest: No entries

Model Contest:

Third Place: Greg Short, *Westinghouse Turbine Transport*

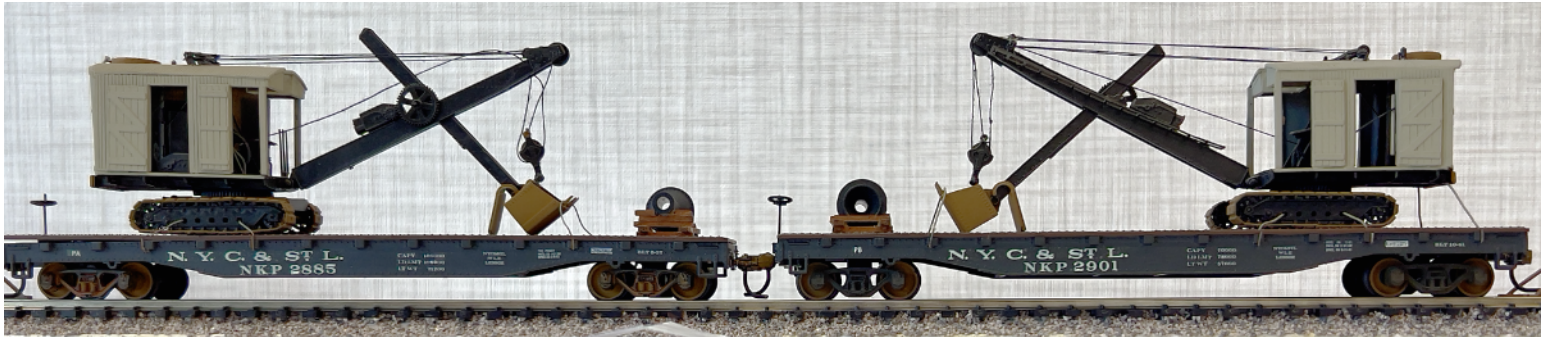
Second Place: Bob Lee, *MKT Flat Car with Large Pump*

First Place (Tie): George Stringer, *Two Steam Shovel on Two Flat Cars*, and Bob Lee, *Old Transformer Load*

Thanks for entering the contests, and congratulations to the winners.

February Contest Topic: Non-Revenue / MOW

Including: Cranes, Speeders, Water Tank Car, Spreaders, and Work Train Cars.



1st Place Model (Tie) by George Stringer Copyright by Don Wilke



1st Place Model (Tie) by Bob Lee Copyright by Don Wilke

Contest Point Summary January 2024

Modeler 2024

No entries

Photographer 2024

Bob Lee	5	George Stringer	4
Matt Goodman	1	Greg Short	2

January Contest Winners:

https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org/ContestFold/contest249121-A/Contest_240121.html

Achievement Program

Achievement Program Chair, Dick Briggs, presented two Achievement Awards at the 18 November Division 6 Meet at Mt. Vernon.



Deter Hill, Assistant Superintendent, received the Chief Dispatcher Achievement Certificate.

To receive the Chief Dispatcher Award, Dexter participated in the operation of a model railroad, either home or club, for not less than fifty hours. Dexter served a minimum of ten hours each must have been served in three of the five categories listed below, one of which must be the last one, Dispatcher:

- Engineer (mainline freight, passenger, or way-freight)
- Yardmaster (or station master)
- Hostler (or power desk)
- Tower man (or traffic manager or road master)
- Dispatcher

Dexter accumulated experience on one or more model railroads with at least two mainline trains and yard switching in simultaneous operation. Some freight and passenger car movement systems, including road switching, shall be used to control train activity.

Addition information at <https://www.nmra.org/dispatcher>



Michael Percy received the Golden Spike Award.

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD QUALIFICATIONS CHECK-LIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

Display six units of rolling stock, either scratch-built, craftsman kits, or super detailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery):

Construct a minimum of eight square feet of model railroad or module(s), including scenery in any scale. Construct five structures: scratch-built, craftsman kits, or superb detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical):

Three types of track are required (e.g., turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be ballasted appropriately and installed on the proper roadbed. Commercial track may be used. All installed tracks must be correctly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g., double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command or other form of control). Provide an additional electrical feature such as power-operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Additional information at

<https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program>

Don't Just Belong, Participate!!

Hello Friends

Some of you remember me, some probably do not. I'm writing to you with a request.

After many years of living in a house, last March, medical issues forced me to move into a senior living facility. As part of that process, I had to dispose of my collection of trains, model railroad supplies, accessories, etc. It just wouldn't fit into a studio apartment. I kept a few pieces. I expected I'd be finished with my days of model railroading. Once here, I met a neighbor in essentially the same situation. We had been thinking about building some minimal layout to keep in our apartments. We both realized that such an undertaking wasn't very practical.

While discussing this, we thought, "Why not try to form a club here and see if we can get some space to build a layout?" After some discussion with the facility managers, they granted us the use of a space 10 feet by 25 feet, and we were off. The facility even supported us to the extent that they provided materials for some initial benchwork. The idea is taking off, and we now number six or seven members. Some experienced model railroaders, and some are new to the hobby but very interested. We also have several people interested in the endeavor's scenery aspects but not the trains specifically. It's amazing to see how excited people who thought their time with the hobby was over get at the prospect of continuing and do-

ing it with several like-minded individuals. But we need much more than a few tables.

One of the very first things we did was develop a set of standards for the proposed layout. The central part of this was the dimensions of the benchwork. We have many people here with mobility issues and need to accommodate them. The mobility issues impose limitations on how high the benchwork can be, how deep it can be, and how much clearance we need underneath. Researching this, we couldn't find any guidelines, so we developed our own. We believe that a layout built to these standards will allow a person in a wheelchair to both work on the layout and run trains. As you may know, living in a facility like this is not cheap, and as retirees, we don't have much money.

So, I'm asking you, if you have any to spare, would you be willing to donate supplies to us? We need Code 100 or Code 83 flex track, switches, roadbeds, scenery supplies, rolling stock, and locomotives, about everything you need to build a model railroad. If you can help, please get in touch with me so we can discuss it.

Thank you very much.

Karen Parker

karenparker@pobox.com

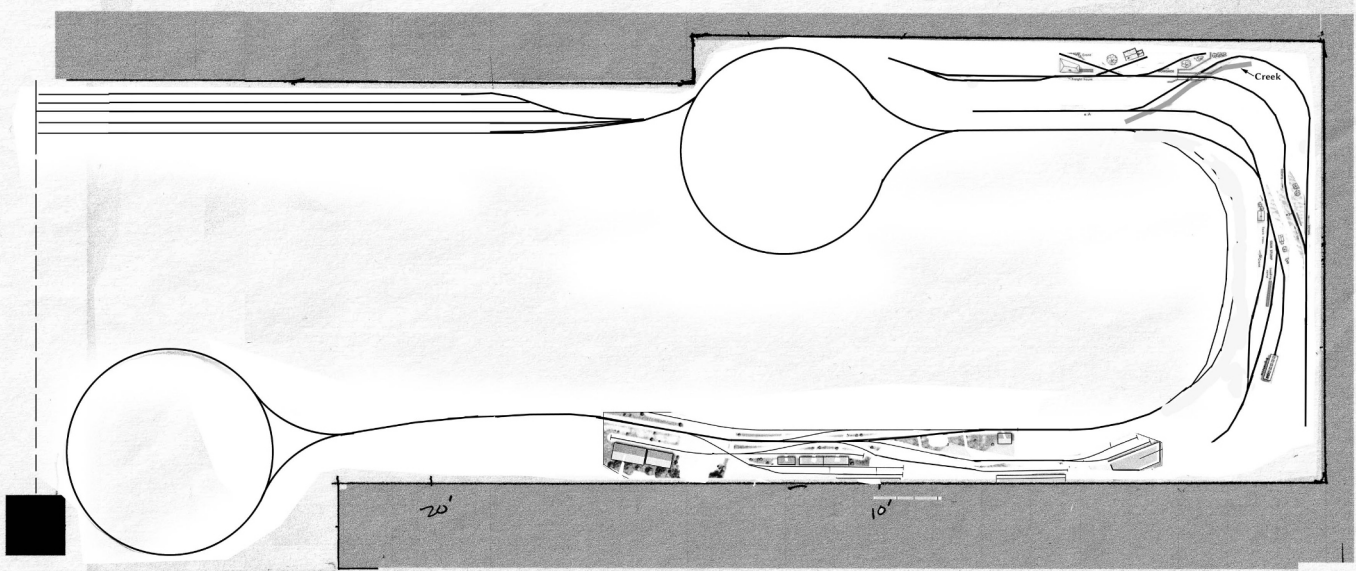
(614) 296-1234

Violet Springs Model Railroad Club

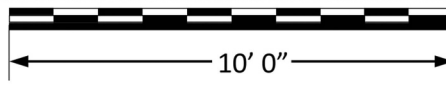
Version 6 11-3-23

Mainline Minimum Radius 27"

Branchline Minimum Radius 18"



Scale 1 cm = 1 ft (1:30.5)
236.2 px = 1 ft @ 600 dpi
19.68 px = 1 inch @ 600 dpi



The Mid-Central
Regional Convention
May 16-19 2024
Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00
through 12/31/2023



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

Convention Merchandise

*The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two
Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's
apparel*

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

*Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms
(including make & take clinics for a small fee)
Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours,
Non-Rail Tours*

*More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.
Look for updates on the NCL site!*

*Many Restaurants
are located
within walking
distance of the
Crowne Plaza
Hotel.*



FREE PARKING

**EARLY REGISTRATION
and MERCHANDISE PRESALE
IS NOW OPEN!**

*Register or print out
a registration form
online!*

Crowne Plaza Hotel

7230 Engle Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH, 44130
(855)797-6733



www.northcoastlimited2024.org



Call for N-Scale T-TRAK Modules!

It's here! The call for N-Scale T-TRAK modules! It is for those N-Scale T-TRAK modelers who will be attending the North Coast Limited convenCon, hosted by The North Coast Division of the NMRA Mid Central Region. The convenCon will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio from May 16-19, 2024.

Let Us Know You're Coming!

<https://forms.gle/RkKrdTWxcZetGDUr6>

Useful Links

NMRA Mid Central Region, North Coast Division

<https://www.div4.org/>

North Coast Limited ConvenCon

<https://northcoastlimited2024.org/>

T-TRAK InformaCon

<https://ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Home>

T-TRAK Wiki

<https://ntrak.wikidot.com/>

Questions

If you have any quesCons, please send an email to both Ramhog Shearer ramhog5@aol.com and Frank Trocchia arocchi@yahoo.com.

Interested in Narrow Gauge - So Are We



44th National Narrow Gauge Convention

**September 11-14th, 2024
Pittsburgh, PA**

<https://www.44nngc.com/>



30th Annual Midwest Midwest Narrow Gauge Show & Mini Bunch 2024 Spring Meet

March 22-23, 2024 Greenford, Ohio

**Vendors * Displays * Clinics
Modular Layouts * Model Contest**

**All Scales & Gauges Welcome
Hon30, Hon3, Sn2, Sn3, On2, On30, On3**

