

Super's Signal

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



Superintendent's Report

Bob Baker, Division 6 Superintendent

In my first Superintendent's Report, I thought I would provide some background about my involvement in the hobby and some personal information. Although I have been a model railroader for many decades, I have only recently been active in the Buckeye Division. I have had the pleasure of meeting many division members, but there are many more members I have not met and who know nothing about me. Last year, volunteering to be the Superintendent was not on my radar at all. After a conversation with Matt Goodman, I thought I could do this and would enjoy the challenges.

As many of you did, I had a train set as a child. I recall the joy when I received a Marx 0-27 set one Christmas morning. I enjoyed running the 2-4-2 locomotive and freight cars for many years, but there was so much more to come. During my teenage years, a few of the neighborhood kids had HO sets from various manufacturers. I was struck by the increased realism, two-rail tracks, and smaller size. One of my friends gave me a couple of Varney freight cars, which I still have. I discovered a well-known hobby shop in Toronto (*George's Trains*). During the last few years of high school I was a regular customer on Saturday mornings. I purchased a Tyco freight set with a CN GP-20. I still have this set as well. Because *George's* was on the other side of the city, I had to take a bus, two subway trains, and a PCC streetcar to get there. One day, they had something on sale that I wanted. After buying it, I realized I did not have enough cash to pay the fare home. So, I walked the 6 miles. I'm glad it wasn't in the dead of winter.

During high school, I built a simple layout in the basement, but after one year of university, I moved to Southern California. While in graduate school, I was able to build some models but did not have an

20 July (*Saturday*) Division 6 Meeting Mill Creek Central Railroad 19313 CR-6 Coshocton

- 1:00:** *Mill Creek Central Railroad* opens
 - 1:15:** Social gathering and train watching
 - 2:00:** **Buckeye Division Membership Meeting**
 - 2:45:** Train Riding & Train Watching
 - 5:00:** *Mill Creek Central Railroad* closes
- Model Contest: None**
Virtual Photography Contest: *Caboose*

opportunity to build a layout. My interest in the hobby waned significantly during my doctoral studies. However, my future wife surprised me on my birthday with a Bachman set: *The John Bull*, and yes, I still have this too! This gift reignited my interest, and I started buying models again.

We moved to Ohio in 1991 and have lived in three houses. In each home, I measured the available space in the basement, drew up plans, but before I could make significant progress on a layout we moved. I have made the most progress in our current home and the layout construction is progressing.

Super's Signal Deadline 25 July

Although I have been an NMRA member for years, I became actively involved in the Buckeye Division during the pandemic when Zoom meetings became available. At my first online meeting, Matt Goodman warmly greeted me. His welcome encouraged me to attend more virtual meetings and then in-person meetings when they resumed. I'm impressed by the modeling skills possessed by many of our members. I have been inspired and motivated by these members to increase my modeling efforts. The photo contests added to my activity, especially when I surprisingly won something. In addition, I have made many new

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DIVISION 6 OFFICERS**Superintendent**

Bob Baker

, Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org**Assistant Superintendent**

Michael Percy:

AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org**Clerk**

Matt Goodman

DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org**Pay Master**

Carter Jastram:

Paymaster@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org**Directors**

Ken McDonough,

Donald Wilke,

Mike Wolf, MMR[®]: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**Web Master:** Don WilkeWeb_Master@div6-mcr-nmra.org**Super's Signal Pub.:** Don WilkeSuperSignalPub@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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Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke

Division 6, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc., known as the Buckeye Division, is an Ohio non-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to Division 6 are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law consult your tax advisor for details.

Clerk's Report
Buckeye Division,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting
Marion Union Station
Marion
15 June 2024

Matt Goodman, Clerk

Division 6 Officers Present:

Superintendent	Bob Baker
Assistant Superintendent	Michael Percy
Clerk	Matt Goodman
Director	Ken McDonough
Director	Don Wilke
Director	Mike Wolf, MMR [®]

Division 6 Chairs Present:

Company Store	Greg Short
Membership	Ken McDonough
<i>Buckeye Express Convention</i>	Greg Short
Webmaster	Don Wilke

Absent:

Paymaster	Carter Jastram
Achievement Program	Dick Briggs, MMR [®]

Call to Order

Superintendent Bob Baker called the Annual Membership Meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He then introduced past Superintendent and current Clerk Matt Goodman.

Matt read the Clerk's Report to the Annual Membership Meeting, as prepared by past Clerk Carter Jastram. It included his report on the Buckeye Division Election Results:

Four candidates ran for the four offices of Division 6. Since all four ran unopposed, the membership voted them into office by acclamation at a previous division meeting.

The results of the election are:

- Superintendent: Bob Baker
- Assistant Superintendent: Michael Percy
- Clerk: Matt Goodman
- Paymaster: Carter Jastram

All four officers officially began their first two-year terms on May 31, 2024.

Matt also announced that Jim Borcz (who was not in attendance) received the **Howard Smith Award**. He thanked Jim for doing excellent work under the radar.

Superintendent Bob Baker then adjourned the Annual Meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Continued: **Clerk's Report**

Clerk's Report
Buckeye Division,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Business Meeting
Marion Union Station
Marion
15 June 2024
 Matt Goodman, Clerk

Superintendent Bob Baker called the Business Meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Bob gave a brief personal introduction and expressed an interest in getting to know Division 6 members better.

Reports:

Clerk's Report: The Clerk's Report, as published on pages 2-5 of the April *Super's Signal*, required no amendments or corrections. Ken McDonough moved to accept the the report as published, and Don Wilke seconded. The membership passed the motion with no votes against it.

Paymaster's Report: Matt Goodman, the Clerk, read the account balances provided by outgoing Paymaster Jim Borcz. John Madden moved the report to be accepted as read, subject to audit, with Mike Wolf seconding. The motion passed with no objections.

Assistant Superintendent/Program Chair Report: Michael Percy said the August division meeting will be at *Ariel Park* in *Mt. Vernon*. Michael intends the meeting as a family meeting, with the goal that members bring their significant others. The speaker will present a history of the *C&AC RR*, which he believes is broad enough to be interesting to spouses. Michael will contact the membership later to coordinate food so everyone doesn't bring cookies.

The July division meeting will be at *Mill Creek Central*. Michael will run the meeting as Superintendent Bob Baker will be unavailable. Arrival time is 1 p.m., and a short business meeting will start at 2 p.m.

Outgoing Program Chair Mike Wolf thanked the members who presented during his tenure. Michael Percy will arrange new clinics; expect arm-twisting from him. Mike also said there will be a survey soon asking for clinic/subject matter suggestions. The division will use that feedback to develop future programming.

Communications Report: Don Wilke.

Website: Don stated that the division website now includes a link to the *2025 Buckeye Express Convention* website. The button is below the meeting timetable.

The division website is otherwise up to date with infor-

mation through June 14th. He will soon add a map to *Mill Creek Central Railroad* (our next meeting location). *Mill Creek* will not have a model contest, but the Virtual Photo Contest will be **Cabin Cars, Caboozes, Crummies**. Don stated that he is always open to feedback on the websites (the Division or Convention).

Super's Signal: The deadline for the next *Signal* is Thursday, June 20th. Don also described how newsletter preparation works so that it is engaging and has as little whitespace as possible.

Membership Report: Ken McDonough. Ken reported that we recently added two new members: Robert Jacobson from Orient and Kelly Cunningham from Mt Vernon. Current membership stands at 141, which is up a bit. Ken also mentioned he is looking into reaching out to inactive members to encourage them to take another swing at the division. Matt Goodman suggested that Jerry Severson might be willing to help with that.

Achievement Program: Matt Goodman stood in for Dick Briggs. Matt presented Mike Wolf with a **Merit Award** for his super detailed PRR I1 Steam Locomotive that he entered at the *North Coast Express Convention* in May. Matt also reported that Dick said there are several APs in progress.

Buckeye Express 2025 Convention: *Buckeye Express* Convention Chair Greg Short reported that we have eleven registrations for next year's convention. He received the convention's first invoices for hats the convention committee wore at Cleveland. The committee's next steps are to start preparing material for *The Kingpin* and to start advertising. Advertising includes in-person presentations at other division meetings, starting around the first of the year. We may do some of the presentations virtually if needed.

The hotel link is now on the convention website, and our room block code is ready. Greg reminded us that attendees get two free drinks each day, and we should pitch that. He encouraged local members to stay and eat/drink in the hotel to help with room nights.

Greg planned the next convention meeting for July. Don Wilke suggested it be sooner to keep the momentum going.

Ken McDonough reported that he has commitments for several clinics already and is currently working on a talk about the Marion area.

The Early Bird registration timeframe ends on February 1st, 2025.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to take up.

New Business:

There was no Old Business to take up.

The Clerk's Report
Continued on **Page 4**.

Continued: **Clerk's Report**

Contest Results:

Contest Certificates: Greg Short. Greg handed out certificates to previous contest winners.

Greg gave out awards for **Photographer of the Year** covering 2022 and 2023. The winners were:

- 2022 – Howdy Lamprecht
- 2023 – Mike Wolf

Don Wilke presented the **Modeler of the Year** for those years:

- 2022 – Howdy Lamprecht
- 2023 – Greg Short

Don Wilke mentioned that the delay was due to reconstructing the points after Jim Ruisinger became ill.

Virtual Photo Contest (Favorite Train):

First Place: Bob Baker, *Cumbres & Toltec's The San Juan arriving in Chama, NM, featuring K-27 #463*

The contest at Marion was **Bring-N-Brag** your **Favorite Train**.

Good of the Order

Matt Goodman thanked everyone who contributed to the lunch setup and food and drink provisions, including Chris Walsh, Bob Smith, Pat Hreachmack, Bob Baker, and Josh Pack. He reminded everyone who had expenses to provide receipts to Paymaster Carter Jastram.

Mike Wolf advised everyone to mark calendars for the *Great Train Show* on January 11 – 12, 2025. We'll need volunteers.

Adjournment:

Bob adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Continued: **The Super's Report**

friends since I started attending the meetings in person.

I learned new skills and had a lot of fun at the *Regional Convention* last month in Cleveland. I am looking forward to our own *Buckeye Express Convention* in 2025. Thanks to Greg Short and all the committee members for their work. If you have not yet done so, be sure to register.

I am excited to have the opportunity to serve the members of the division. I want to continue Matt's periodic

"What's on your workbench?" emails. This has proven to be a great way for us to learn from each other. I am also committed to sustaining our work on member recruitment and retention. If you have questions or ideas about the NMRA, its programs, or the hobby generally, please do not hesitate to email me. If I don't know the answer, I will find out for you.

Happy Rails!

Bob Baker

Traffic at Marion Union Station

Don Wilke, Director

Mike mentioned the rail traffic at Marion during our division meeting in his *Clinic Corner* below.

I started recording the traffic on the CXS Transportation and Norfolk Southern for the fun of it. I didn't start

recording times until a few trains passed by. The times are when the front of the train was passing by the station, to the nearest five minutes. I didn't think to record what the type of train was passing. I think the majority of the trains were double-stack.

8:30-10:00	NS	North-bound	11:00	NS	South-bound	2:15	CSX	West-bound
8:30-10:00	NS	South-bound	11:30	NS	South-bound	2:45	CSX	East-bound
8:30-10:00	NS	North-bound	12:25	NS	North-bound	3:00	CSX	West-bound
8:30-10:00	CSX	East-bound	1:45	NS	South-bound	3:15	NS	North-bound
10:45	NS	South-bound	2:10	CSX	East-bound	3:40	NS	South-bound

Share the Knowledge!!

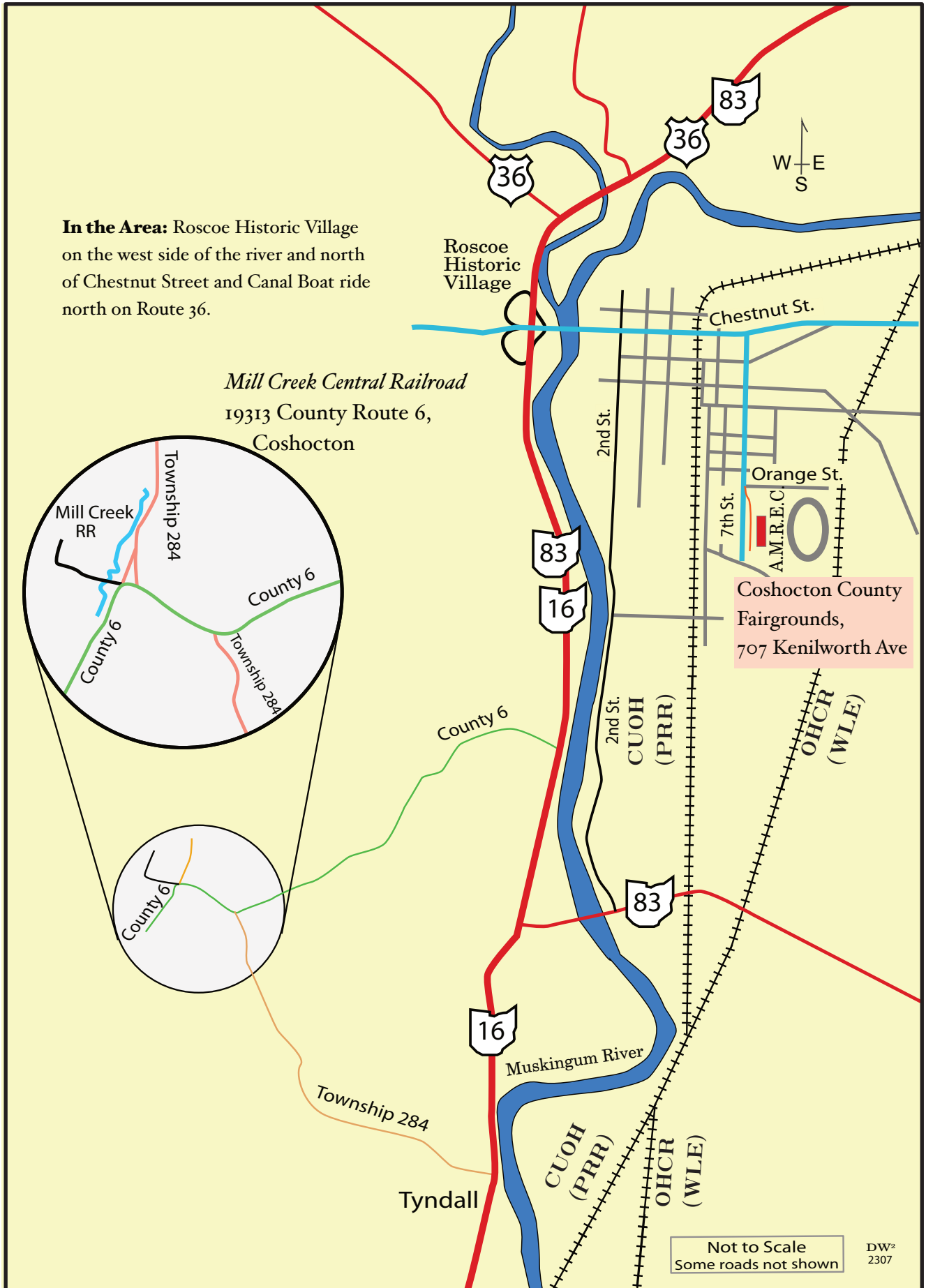
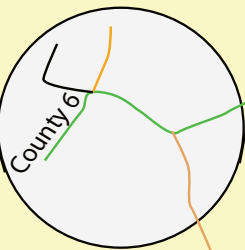
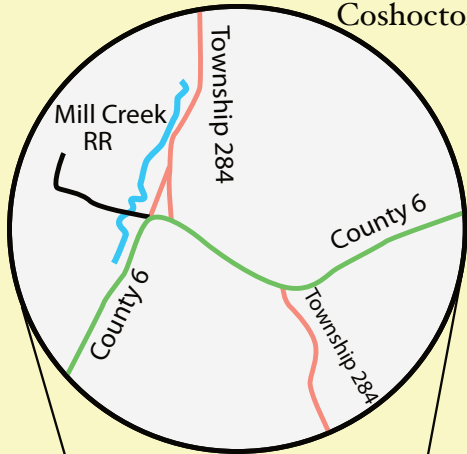
Division 6 – 2024 Time Table

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</i> Deadline		
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</i> Deadline		
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</i> Deadline		
21 April (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Gahanna Library (Meeting Rooms 2 & 3) Clinics: Creating Switchlists , Michael Percy Contests: Railroad Served Structure, Not RR Owned	Gahanna
29 April	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
16-19 May	MCR Convention	The North Coast Limited	Cleveland, OH
15 June (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Annual Meeting & Business Meeting: Marion Union Station Mini Clinics: Estate Planning for Model Railroaders , Butch Sage Contest: Photo: Favorite Train ; Bring-N-Brag: Favorite Train	Marion
22 June	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
20 July (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Mill Creek Railroad Model Contest: None Virtual Photo Contest: Caboose	Coshocton
25 July	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
17 August (Saturday)	Division 6 Picnic	Location: Ariel-Foundation Park, Kiwanis Pavilion Clinic: The History of the Cleveland, Akron and Columbus Railway , Gloria Parsisson; The History of the Former PPG Glass Manufacturing Site , Michael Percy, Possible Tour of the Site Model Contest: None ; Virtual Photo Contest: RR Signals	Mt. Vernon
22 August	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
22 September (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Coshocton Club Open House: Zanesville Club Model & Virtual Photo Contest: Steam Locomotive	Coshocton
26 October	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline	No October <i>Signal</i>	
27 October	Division 6 Train Show	Train Show Model Contest: None Virtual Photo Contest: Railroad Signs	Laughlin Center Cambridge

Don't Just Belong,
Participate!!

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.

Mill Creek Central Railroad
19313 County Route 6,
Coshocton



Coshocton County Fairgrounds,
707 Kenilworth Ave

Not to Scale
Some roads not shown

DW²
2307





ings. This is also my last *Clinic Corner* column. Michael Percy will be scheduling (aka pulling teeth) clinics going forward. Please contact him at AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org with your clinic ideas. 2024 division meetings are a great chance to practice your clinics, so you are ready to present them at *The Buckeye Express Regional Convention* next May! Ken McDonough is the clinic coordinator for the convention and would love to add you to the schedule!

Watch for a survey from the Recruiting and Retention Committee requesting the type of clinics you want to see in 2024 and beyond.

Are You?

Don Wilke, Division 6 Director

- ◇ Are you over 65?
- ◇ Are you an active Division 6 member? (Attend division meeting and activities.)
- ◇ Are you a member of a Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plan?
- ◇ Are you wanting help covering up to \$100 of the annual NMRA membership dues?
- Building, Collaborating, or Showcasing Layouts with others
- Presenting clinics
- Social Gatherings and Events
- Workshops and Skill Sessions
- Model Railroad Tours
- Community Outreach
- Participating in or attending Model Railroad Shows
- ◇ Are you interested in learning more? Check out <https://app.hellogrouper.com/p/nmra/faq>
- ◇ Are you interested in signing up now? Check out www.hellogrouper.com/NMRA

Research shows that joining groups like the NMRA improves our mental, physical and social health. It's called "Social Fitness," and it's sharing your love of model trains while connecting with others. Let your health plan reward you for something you already knew, model trains are good for your health.

The NMRA partnered with Grouper to reimburse you for your Social Fitness Activities.

The following is a list of some of those activities that qualify.

- Attending division meetings
- Attending regional or national conventions

Note: Not all Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plans support Grouper yet. If your plan does not yet support Grouper, they will notify you when it does support Grouper.

Personal note: My Medicare Advantage does not accept Grouper, yet. They will contacted me when it does.

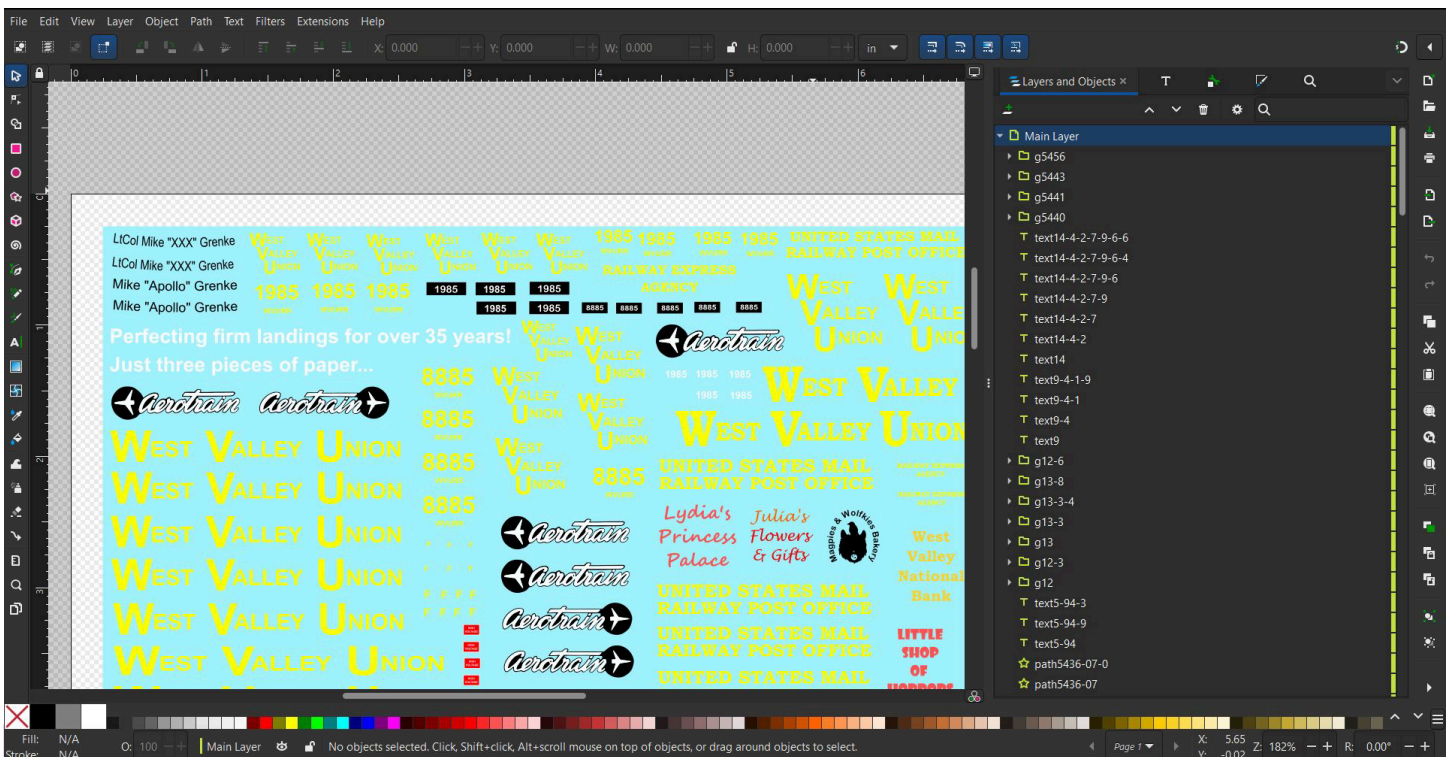


Photo 1. Main Inkscape screen.

Isn't this hobby great for creating rabbit holes? Here's my latest adventure, venturing down my latest rabbit hole, *Creating Custom Decals*.

The project started off easily enough. I needed some good quality water slide decals for an aircraft model I was customizing for a friend by adding his name under the cockpit window. Simple enough, right? I contacted Precision Design Company (PDC) based on Matt Goodman's recommendation. Their website (www.pdc.ca) contains pricing and specifics for submitting your own artwork. One of the requirements is that graphics must be in vector format vs. bit-map format, which is commonly used most of the time (mp, jpg, etc.).

My first lesson learned was that saving a file as a PDF doesn't convert bitmap graphics to vector graphics. Commercially, *Corel Draw* and *Adobe Illustrator* are two programs that work in vector format. I didn't want to spend hundreds of dollars purchasing one of those for this one-off project. A little research (Google is your friend) led me to Inkscape – an open-source program that functions sim-

Custom Decals
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Photo 2. Final decal sheet.

ilarly to Corel Draw. Their website (<https://inkscape.org>) has Windows, Mac, and Linux versions. While there are a lot of menus and buttons (Photo 1), it wasn't too hard getting

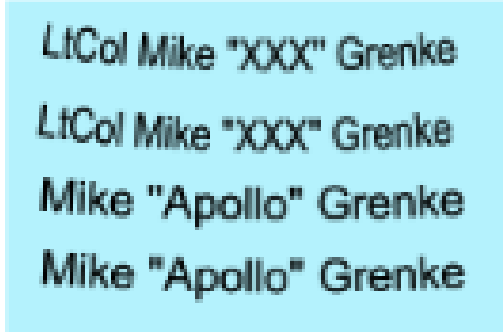


Photo 2B.

Enlargement of the upper left corner of Photo 2 to show the curved text.



Photo 3.

Photo of builder's plate converted into a vector graphic.

for the University of North Carolina, you'll likely want to use something other than Carolina Blue.

Much like working in Word or PowerPoint, various fonts and styles are available. Individual letters or words can be easily rescaled, grouped, and positioned on the layer. Google was helpful in finding a tutorial on how to curve text. Notice the slight curve in the names on the top left corner and some of the window logos in the lower right quarter of **Photo 2**. I measured the number boards and made letters with both a black background and no background to give me some flexibility in mounting them. Having the cars and locomotives I was going to repaint, and decal was essential in getting everything correctly sized.

Lesson 2 arose when I attempted to take a quality builder's plate photo and convert it to vector format (**Photo 3**).

The first version looked great, but the file size was huge due to the number of different colors and segments the conversion generated. My son found that limiting the number of colors con-

Custom Decals
Continued on Page 10

Continued: **Custom Decals**

verted to a much more manageable file size (and one that didn't bog down my computer). Again, Google is your friend in figuring out how to use the various tools and features in the program. Someone has likely created a

video or tutorial to do what you want to do. Although they are less than 1/8" tall, you can still read the builder's plates with a magnifying glass.

I'm pretty sure PDC is a one-man shop. Bill Brillinger (info@pdc.ca) responded to emails promptly and was

Kalmbach Media Update

Don Wilke, Editor

You've probably heard that *Firecrown Media* bought *Kalmbach Media*. A few months ago, *Kalmbach Media* sold the building that it occupied. A few months later, the company was on the block. *Firecrown Media* bought the company or most of it within 30 days. *Firecrown* is the most extensive media platform in aviation and recreational marine. *Firecrown Media* started with the purchase of *Flying* magazine. To see the extensive brands that *Firecrown Media* has under its umbrella, click on <https://firecrown.com/brands/>.

Kalmbach Media was originally supposed to be out of the current building by the end of June, but that was recently extended to the end of July. Most of the current staff will stay and work in another building in Wisconsin. Some of the final production staff will move to *Firecrown Media's* headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The staff is busy boxing locomotives, cars, buildings, tools, cameras, and everything else for the move. Unfortunately, the original staff built the MR&T into the room, so most of it is unsalvageable. David Popp cut out a 6-foot section of the MR&T depicting rural Wisconsin, which they donated to the NMRA for display. Most of the recent project layouts will move to the new building in Wisconsin or Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In a video showing discussions between *Firecrown Media* and David Popp, *Firecrown Media* said they had many plans for the former *Kalmbach Media*. They have many plans for magazine and video productions with an increased budget. Most visible changes will not occur for about a year. One noticeable small change is the new videos are now copyrighted by *Firecrown Media*.

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

Awards at Marion



Greg Short presents 2022 Modeler of the Year to Howdy Lamprecht



Greg Short presents 2022 Photographer of the Year to Howdy Lamprecht



Don Wilke presents 2023 Modeler of the Year to Greg Short



Greg Short presents 2023 Photographer of the Year to Mike Wolf



Matt Goodman presents a NMRA Merit Award for Motive Power for Mike Wolf's PRR #4510



A Happy Howdy Lamprecht

Contest Report

Contest Chair

**June Contest:
Favorite Train
Bring-N-Brag**

Model Contest:

First Place: Bob Baker, *Cumbres & Toltec's version of The San Juan arriving in Chama, NM, featuring K-27 #463*

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

July Model Contest: None

**July Photo Contest Topic:
Caboose**



1st Place Virtual Photo by Bob Baker,
Copyright by the entrant

Contest Point Summary June 2024

Modeler 2024

Greg Short	13	George Stringer	8
Bob Lee	8	Matt Goodman	6

Photographer 2024

Matt Goodman	11	Bob Baker	7
Darrel Logan	8	Scott Brown	2

*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*

Bring-N-Brag Marion



Company Store Update

Greg Short

We are offering the kits to the membership for \$25. This price is only good if a division member purchases the kits at division meetings for personal use. The price for shipping the kits and how to order them is on the website.



Sixth Annual NMRA Division 6

Train Show

Cambridge Ohio

Sunday

October 27, 2024

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**

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ACCESSORIES

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Check out 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

