

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

April has arrived, and the Buckeye Express Convention will be here before we realize it. A significant amount of effort has gone into planning and preparing for this unique event. Have you seen the excellent lineup of clinics and other events? Have you reserved a room at the hotel? And have you registered? If you answered "no" to either of these questions, I encourage you to do so today. We recently received an email from a prominent NMRA member praising the team for how easy it was for him to register and make hotel reservations. Time is running short. Visit the convention website today to check out the latest updates.

To better address the needs of our members, the Steering Committee has created a survey. The link to the survey was sent to Division 6 members via email in the past week or so. It doesn't take long to complete, and the results will assist the leadership in making adjustments to our monthly meetings that will hopefully boost interest and participation. Please take a moment to complete the survey as soon as possible.

One recent change was made to the order of the agenda items for the March meeting. The contest and clinic were held first, followed by the business meeting. Although I could not attend, this change was appreciated by those who did. From all reports, Bill Morgan's clinic on Automating a Walther's Turntable with Arduino was very interesting and helpful. Thank you, Bill, for leading this clinic.

We are always seeking people to lead clinics at our division meetings. If you have an idea, please get in touch with Mike Wolf, me, or anyone on the Board of Directors.

Our April meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday, April 6. It will be held at the Cambridge Club in Cambridge, 648 Wheeling Street. Enter from 7th Street

6 April (*Sunday*) Division 6 Meeting Cambridge Club 648 Wheeling Avenue Cambridge

Enter from 7th Street and proceed to the 3rd floor.

- 1:00:** Cambridge Club opens
- 1:00:** Social gathering at the Cambridge Club
- 1:05:** Contest submissions open
- 1:40:** Contest submissions closes; Voting begins
- 1:50:** Contest Voting ends
- 2:00:** Contest Results announced, comments from entrees, announcements
- 2:15:** Cambridge Club Tour
- 3:00:** Division 6 Meeting. No Raffle-space limitations
- 4:30:** Cambridge Club closes

Model Contest: *Caboose*

Virtual Photo Contest: *Caboose*

*Super's Signal Deadline
10 April*

and proceed to the 3rd floor. The social gathering begins at 1:00. The model contest and photo contest categories are "caboose." So, dig out your photos and models of your cabooses, vans, cabin cars, or whatever you call them, and enter or submit them as appropriate.

Wishing everyone a good month of modeling and yard cleanup.

Happy Modeling,

Bob

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 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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Non-Credited Photos by Donald Wilke

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*Clerk's Report
Buckeye Division,
Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc.
Membership Meeting
Smoke Stack Hobby Store
Lancaster
16 March 2025*

Matt Goodman, Clerk

Call to Order

Division 6 Officers Present:

Clerk	Matt Goodman
Paymaster	Carter Jastram
Director	Ken McDonough
Director	Don Wilke

Division 6 Chairs Present:

<i>Buckeye Express</i> Convention	Greg Short
Company Store	Greg Short
Contest	Don Wilke
Election Nominations	Harry "Butch" Sage
Membership	Ken McDonough
Raffle	Scott Brown
<i>Super's Signal</i> Publisher	Don Wilke
Train Show	Greg Short
Webmaster	Don Wilke

Absent:

Superintendent	Bob Baker
Achievement Program	Dick Briggs, MMR [®]
Assistant Superintendent	Michael Percy
Director	Mike Wolf, MMR [®]
Membership Retention/Recruitment Programs	Mike Wolf, MMR [®] Michael Percy

Welcome

The Division 6 meeting was opened by Ken McDonough, Division 6 Director, at 2:02 pm.

Announcements

Ken announced that Superintendent Bob Baker sent his regrets due to illness. Bob asked Ken to run the meeting in his absence. Ken Smoke Stack Hobby Shop owners Don and Patty for supporting the hobby over the years and for their hospitality today and wished them well in retirement. He promised that those in attendance would do their best to spend money before leaving.

The Board of Directors, acting on input from the Retention Committee, is experimenting with a new meeting format, starting with today's meeting. The meeting will start with the Welcome and Contest Results, possibly followed by a Bring-and-Brag session. Then, the Clinic presentation will take place before officially starting the Business Meeting.

Two new members, Debbie and Rick Hoffine, attended the meeting. Ken and the group welcomed them, and Debbie and

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

Continued: Clerk's Report Rick shared their hobby backgrounds, mentioning that they had joined in the past month at Darrell Logan's encouragement. Ken noted that he would send them details about how the Division operates once he receives their information from the National office.

Contest Results

Don Wilke

February and March Virtual Photo Contest: MOW and Non-Steam Locomotives: The winners of the virtual photo contests were not announced during the meeting.

February Model Contest - MOW winners are:

Second Place: Matt Goodman and Scott Brown (Tie)

First Place: Howdy Lamprecht

March Model Contest - Non-Steam Locomotives winners are:

First Place: Greg Short and Matt Goodman (Tie)

The April contest features **Cabooses, Cabin Cars, Crummies, and Vans.**

Remember, members may only submit photos taken by themselves.

Clinic

Automating a Walthers Turntable using Arduino, Bill Morgan

At 2:15, the members in attendance decamped to the back of the room for Bill Morgan's clinic on automating a Walthers Turntable using the code he developed and deployed to an Arduino. The project also included various 3D filament-printed parts, with the goal of not modifying any existing Walthers parts. The project also featured stepper motors and, in one instance, a clutched gear wheel to safeguard the stepper motor in case something obstructed the gear train. Bill then showcased a turntable module from his layout and circulated various parts for inspection by the members. Bill is open to consulting and assisting with similar projects from other members, but he isn't interested in producing complete kits.

Membership Meeting

After the clinic, Ken McDonough called the membership meeting to order at 3:20 pm.

Reports

Clerk's Report: Matt Goodman. The membership approved the January Clerk's Report, as published on pages 2-4 of the February 2025 *Super's Signal*. Matt noted that the February Clerk's report was missing from the March *Signal* because the meeting was canceled due to the weather conditions on that day.

Paymaster's Report: Carter Jastram. The membership approved the Paymaster's Report, subject to an audit.

Program Report: Don Wilke on behalf of Michael Percy. April's meeting is currently scheduled for Sunday, April 13th. This may change since that date is Palm Sunday. Greg Short is checking with the Cambridge Club, the meeting location, to see if an alternative date is available. Don advised watching the website for updates.

Communications Report:

Webmaster: Don Wilke. Don will post the February and March contest winners on the division website and in the April *Super's Signal*. Links can be found at the bottom of the division Welcome Page.

Super's Signal Report: Don Wilke. The contest for April will be **Cabooses**. Don asked if the members present had read the article on *Calipers for Modeling* in the March *Super's Signal*. He noted that more content is on the way, so keep checking back.

The deadline for the April issue of the *Signal* is Thursday, March 20. If an article is not quite ready, please let Don know how much space it will require.

Membership Report: Ken McDonough. The current membership stands at 141, with one new member joining and seven renewals in March. Ken welcomed two members in attendance: Rick and Debbie Hoffine.

Retention and Recruitment Report: Matt Goodman for Mike Wolf. The committee has developed a new survey consisting of seventeen questions. Keep an eye on your email, and we encourage you to participate!

The committee is also behind today's new meeting format, with the business meeting scheduled at the end.

It has also committed to adding more content to the *Signal* to enhance its value. Matt also asked everyone present to share their ideas, whether they were just a couple of sentences or several pages long.

Nominations, Elections Report: Butch Sage. We have three candidates for the Division 6 Director positions: Ken McDonough, Don Wilke, and Mark Krueger. Since there were no nominations from the floor, Ken then *declared that under the Division 6 Regulations*, the three candidates *were elected* by acclamation. Their terms of office will officially begin on May 31.

Buckeye Express Convention: Greg Short. We are looking for volunteers for the Registration Desk, the Company Store, and the Contest Room. We will finalize the Clinic schedule around May 3rd so people will know which vol-

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

Continued: **Clerk's Report** unteer slots are available. Ken mentioned that members who are interested in volunteering should submit their names for consideration now. The convention team will remain flexible with volunteer scheduling.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to address.

New Business:

Lancaster Hobby Expo: We need volunteers for table setup on Friday starting at 2 pm. This task should take about two hours. We'll also need two volunteers on Saturday for both morning and evening shifts at the recruiting table. Ken asked members to contact him, Matt, or Mike if they can help. Darrell Logan asked if Operation Life Saver could have a table. Darrell noted that Operation Life Saver brings a lot of traffic to the table, which everyone agreed on. Matt said that if there are two tables available, then yes. If there's only one, there won't be enough room.

Club Reports:

Janis Center Railroad Club (Columbus): Connie Logan. Connie announced that the *Janis Club* has officially been renamed to the *Columbus Metro Railway Society, Inc.* In addition, they installed a turntable and some tracks around it on the permanent layout.

Operation Life Saver: Connie Logan. Connie Logan announced that Rick and Debbie Hoffine are certified Operation Life Saver Instructor (OLI) volunteers. OLI will be represented at Division 3's Training Day at Carillon Park on April 12, where they will assist the scouts in earn-

ing their merit badges. OLI will return to Dayton in June for the Dayton Railfest, also at Carillon Park, and will be in Bradford, Ohio, in September. Connie distributed a flyer on FRA rail statistics to the members. Additionally, the RISC course is free for any first responder groups, including police and firefighters.

Raffle:

Scott Brown

There was no raffle held.

Scott announced there will be no raffle at the Cambridge meeting due to space constraints limitations.

We appreciate the support of our members for the division through the purchase of raffle tickets and donations of raffle prizes. If you would like to donate a potential raffle prize, please get in touch with Scott Brown.

Good of the Order:

Steering Committee Meetings: The Steering Committee meetings typically occur on the Thursday before a Division meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Any member can attend any Steering Committee meeting. If you're interested in attending, please contact Superintendent Bob Baker for the Zoom meeting link.

Next Division 6 Membership Meeting: The next Division 6 meeting is scheduled for April 13th at the *Cambridge Model Railroad Club*. Please note that **this date is tentative**. Keep an eye on the website and communication emails for updates.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Wanted

Could you take a look at the dark recesses of your Storage Room? You know, that place where you keep the kits, bits and pieces, and boxed cars and locomotives you plan on using someday. Most of us have an area like that. Do you have a boxed car that's a duplicate of one on your layout or a new building kit that you will never get around to putting together?

The *Buckeye Express* seeks new, unopened kits, cars, and locomotives for the Raffle Table and Convention Prizes. Start looking now in those dark recesses, and email Dick Briggs (RBRIGGS261A@aol.com) to let him know what you are willing to donate. Your name will appear on the Sponsor's Page of the *Buckeye Express Timetable*, which everyone at the convention will receive.

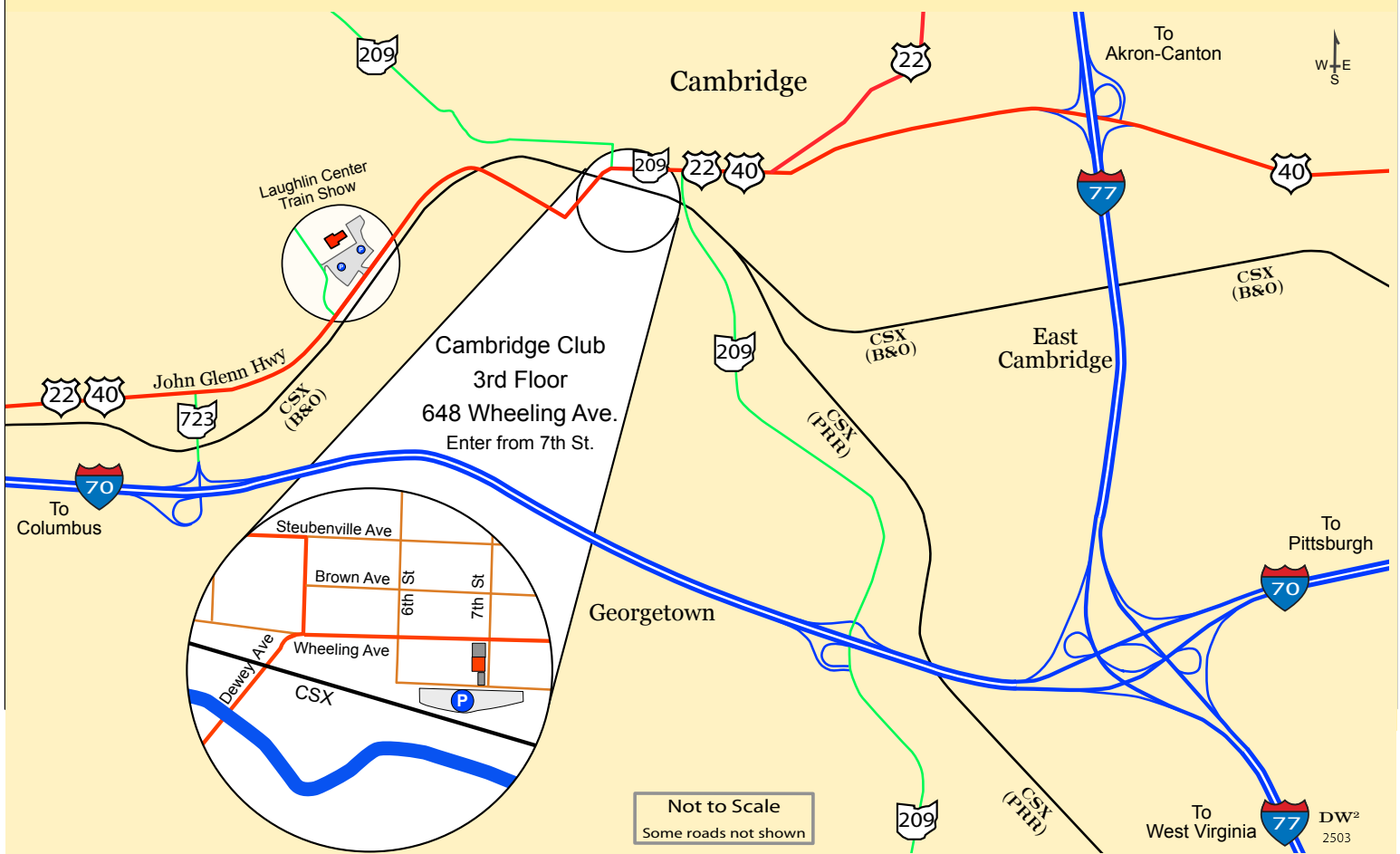
New Hands-On Clinic

Brian Barnt offers a new Hands-On Clinic, Introduction to Layout Command Control, LCC, in two parts. The first one-hour segment will take place on Thursday and is available to all attendees. Brian will demonstrate how to get started in LCC using a starter kit, a demo board, and a signal module from RR Cirkuts in a limited hands-on segment lasting several hours on Friday. All electronic components will be supplied for this Make and Take Clinic to create a complete LCC system. Because of the high cost of electronic parts, the price for the second clinic will be \$150. **IMPORTANT:** Attendees should bring their own laptops with JMRI installed.

Division 6 – 2025 Time Table

Date	Event	Meeting	City
18 January (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Hilltop Library Clinic: Contests: Open Car with Load	Columbus
23 January	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
16 February (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting Canceled (Snow Storm)	Business Meeting: Gahanna Library Clinic: <i>Automating a Walthers Turntable using Arduino</i> , Bill Morgan Contests: Non-Revenue / MOW	Gahanna
20 February	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
16 March (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Smoke Stack Hobbies Clinic: <i>Automating a Walthers Turntable using Arduino</i> , Bill Morgan Model Contests: Non-Steam Locomotive & Non-Revenue / MOW	Lancaster
20 March	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
6 April (Sunday)	Division 6 Meeting	Business Meeting: Cambridge Club Clinics: Contests: Caboose	Cambridge
10 April	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		
15-18 May	MCR Convention	The Buckeye Express	Dublin
21 June (Saturday)	Division 6 Meeting	Annual Meeting & Business Meeting: Marion Union Station Mini Clinics: Contest: Photo: Favorite Train ; Bring-N-Brag: Favorite Train	Marion
June	<i>Super's Signal</i> Deadline		

April Map



Butt-Joining Pink Foam Panels for a Solid Scenery Base

Matt Goodman

I'm using rigid insulation foam to support the scenic, non-roadbed areas on my layout. I chose a 2-inch thick foam to match the height of my spline roadbed and thought the thicker foam would provide a sturdier base between the benchwork supports.

One issue with this is that joints between foam sections don't always align conveniently with a supporting structure, creating a weak spot. Scenery like buildings and other items placed on the foam isn't very heavy, but I was confident that I could stack things on it while working, which could lead to sagging. Additionally, these types of foam joints have been reported to "open up" over time. Both scenarios necessitate a continuous foam sheet.

After considering several options for joint support, including sub-joists and splice plates, I noticed a can of Great Stuff. Anyone who has used this product knows that, in addition to expanding to effectively fill voids, it is also very sticky. I decided to try something akin to a biscuit joint in woodworking, with Great Stuff acting as both the biscuit and the filler glue.

I completed this project six years ago, and it's holding up very well. The following are photos and descriptions of the steps I took.

Preparing the Insulation Foam

I cut a slot in the ends of the adjoining foam pieces with a hotwire knife, which is the perfect tool for this, about 1 to 2 inches deep. An extending blade utility knife could also work.

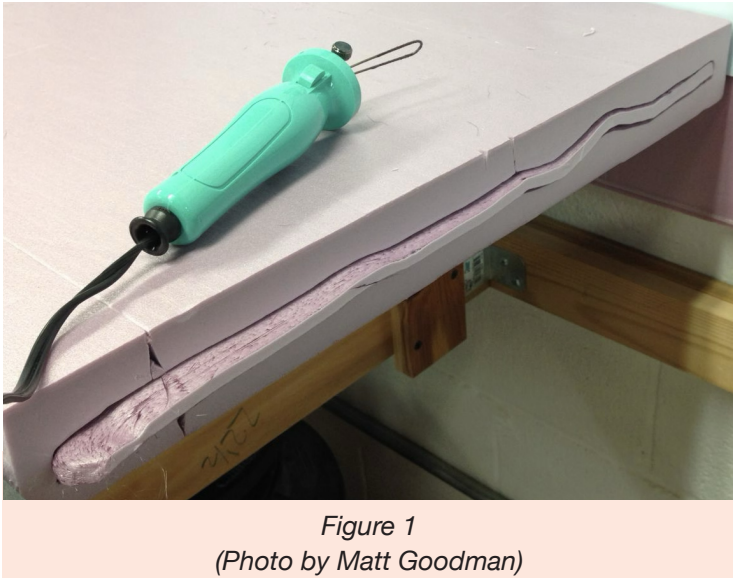


Figure 1
(Photo by Matt Goodman)

I also added vertical "ports" to create a space for excess foam expansion. My thought was that these ports would

stop the Great Stuff foam from forcing the two sheets of insulation foam apart as it expanded.



Figure 2
(Photo by Matt Goodman)

Applying Great Stuff

Separate the sheets and fill the slots of both with Great Stuff (not shown) to avoid any voids in the slots, then push the two sheets back together before it has a chance to start dripping on the floor.

I injected additional foam into the expansion ports as needed. I injected a sufficient amount to ensure the foam expanded into the deeper areas of the slots.

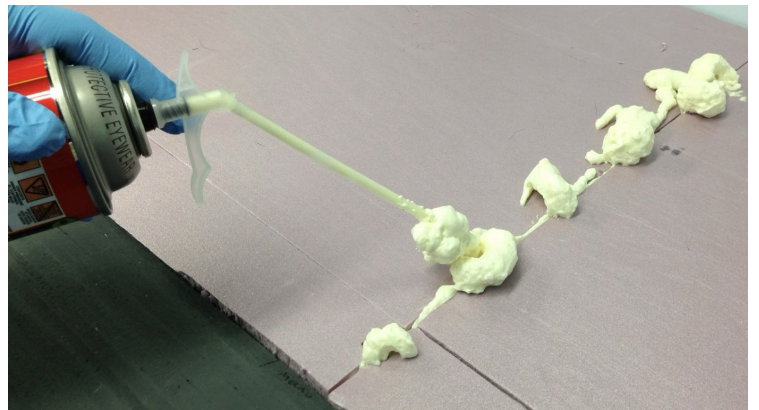


Figure 3
(Photo by Matt Goodman)

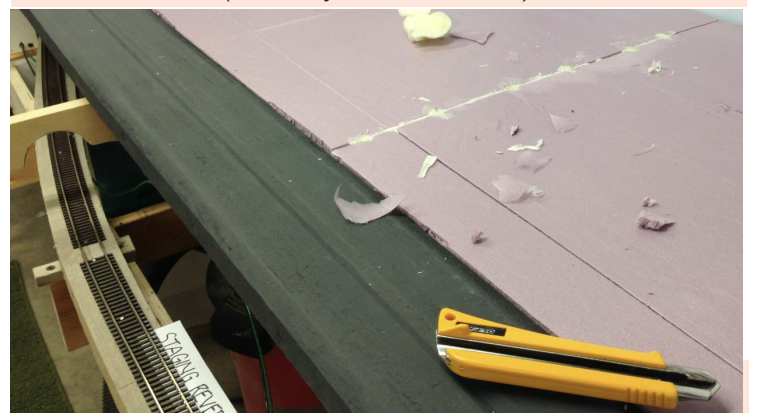


Figure 4
(Photo by Matt Goodman)

Cleanup (above)

After the Great Stuff cures for about a day, trim the excess expanded foam flush with the insulation sheet, and then you're done. A utility knife blade is ideal for this task.

Result

Voila: a sixteen-foot continuous slab of insulation foam supported at the glued joint with no flex. This worked as well as I had hoped it would at the time.



Figure 5
(Photo by Matt Goodman)

Joint Cross Section

A couple of months later, I cut a slot in the foam for the spline to support the Old Main. This cut offered the chance to see what the Great Stuff joint looked like in cross section. I had been curious whether the foam filled the slot completely (it did) and if any large voids had formed (it didn't)

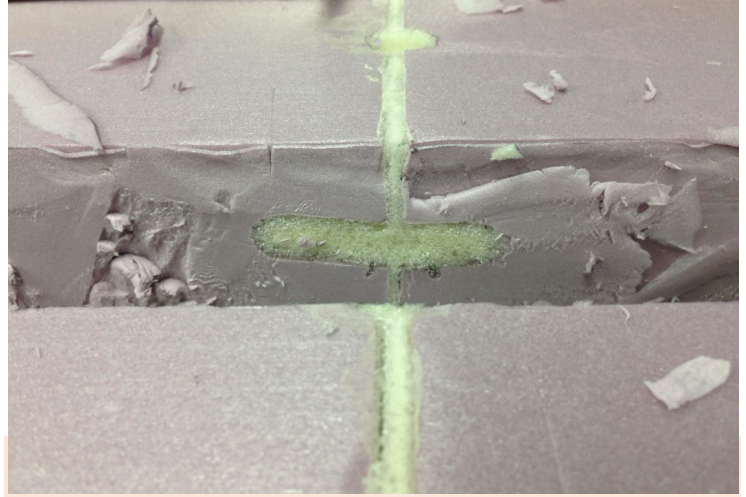


Figure 6
(Photo by Matt Goodman)



Retention Committee Progress Report

By Mike Wolf, MMR[©]

The Recruiting and Retention Committee has created a survey to gather information on why you participate (or do not participate) in Division meetings or activities. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey. I sent it out through MailChimp, and depending on your email server, it may have ended up in your junk, spam, or Promotions folder. Please check there around March 19th. Your opinion DOES matter.

You will notice some definite changes in upcoming meetings, but look for monthly updates here in the *Super's Signal* and on the website as we continue our efforts.

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women!

The Buckeye Express Convention Committee is looking for volunteers to help in the Contest Room, the Yard Sale Room, the Bag Check Table, and the Registration Desk. Most of the volunteer duties will involve assisting the Convention Committee Member in charge of that room and keeping an eye on the Convention attendees as they wander around the room. The experienced Convention Committee Member will be there to instruct you on your duties.

We know the Convention offers many interesting and unique clinics you may want to attend. The Convention Committee plans on having a schedule of the clinics about 10 days before the beginning of the Convention. We need a pool of volunteers now so you and the Convention Committee can decide when you can volunteer a few days before the Convention. The Convention Committee has worked hard to assemble what we think will be a great Convention, but we can not do that without your help. Don't hesitate to contact Greg Short now and volunteer for the volunteer pool.

Contest Report

Contest Chair

February Contest: *Non-Revenue*

Virtual Photo Contest

First Place: *The Moose Ridge maintenance truck is speeding somewhere!*, Howdy Lamprecht

Second Place: *This photo was taken at the NYC Museum in Elkhart, IN, in October 2022. Selkirk, NY, is my hometown,* Doug Kullman

Third Place: *Crew performing tie renewals the modern way at Troutdale, OR, along the beautiful Columbia River Gorge, August 2024,* Matt Goodman

Model Contest

First Place: *The Moose Ridge Maintenance Truck,* Howdy Lamprecht

Second Place: *Goodman Railroad Track Construction Cars,* Matt Goodman

Third Place: *Baltimore & Ohio Maintenance Water Car,* Scott Brown

March Contest: *Non-Steam Locomotive*

Virtual Photo Contest

First Place: *WVURR's newest diesel pulls into the station,* Mike Wolf

Second Place: *Two battery-electric switching locomotives pulling a heavy load of model railroaders,* Matt Goodman

Third Place: *Sapphire Ridge #10 "The Hummingbird" is preparing to leave Olive Grove Station,* Howdy Lamprecht

Model Contest

First Place (Tie): *Wheeling and Lake Eire SD-45,* Greg Short

First Place (Tie): *Sperry Rail Detection Car,* Matt Goodman



February 1st Place Virtual Photo by Howdy Lamprecht
Copyright by the entrant



March 1st Place Virtual Photo by Mike Wolf
Copyright by the entrant

Contest Point Summary March 2025

Modeler 2025

Matt Goodman	7	Howdy Lamprecht	4
Scott Brown	6	Greg Short	4
Carter Jastram	4	Paul Bender	2

Photographer 2025

Matt Goodman	9	Bob Baker	2
Mike Wolf	7	Scott Brown	2
Howdy Lamprecht	6	Connie Logan	2
Dick Briggs	4	Ken McDonough	1
Doug Kullman	4		

April Contests: Caboose



February.1st Place Model
by Howdy Lamprecht
Copyright by the entrant



March.1st Place Model (Tie)
by Greg Short
Copyright by the entrant



March.1st Place Model (Tie)
by Matt Goodman
Copyright by the entrant

February Contest Winners:

https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org/ContestFold/contest250226-B/Contest_250216.html

March Contest Winners

https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org/ContestFold/contest250316-C/Contest_250316.html

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*.



The Buckeye Express Convention
15-18 May, 2025
Embassy Suites, Dublin



2025 Spring Railroad Modelers Meet

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Div 1) of the North Central Region (NCR), NMRA



April 5, 2025 – Sylvania OH

Doors Open 8:00AM with activities into the evening. See website for details!
Sylvania Senior Center, 7140 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH 43560

Learn New Skills, Share Your Models, Share Techniques, Visit Layouts



This is an RPM style
Model Railroading event!
Lunch options will be available on-site!



This event is open to ALL MODELERS - NMRA Membership is not required

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Modeling Clinics – 9 clinics on 3 tracks to choose from on a mixture of subjects presented by modelers, historians, and industry experts.

Model Showroom – Bring your models (finished or in-progress) of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, or scenery. All are Welcome! The showroom is about sharing the hobby in all its many forms. Freelance and prototype welcome.

Layouts and Displays - Small and modular displays will be available within the main venue.

Layout Tours - Layout tours of local layouts will be available during the afternoon and evening.

Admission is \$20 at the door

17 and under free, all individuals 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult

All event activities (minus lunch) are included in one low price!

This is NOT a swap meet!



Visit our website for more information
and event schedules
smm.ncrmra.org

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division
Division 1, NCR NMRA
div1.ncrmra.org

