

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

The Buckeye Express Convention is approaching. The number of registered participants is encouraging, but there is still room for more attendees. The Hotel Reservation Date, April 23, is rapidly approaching, so don't delay. Please visit the Division 6 Convention Website for all the Convention details to ensure you don't miss out on what promises to be a fantastic opportunity for modeling, prototype education, and socialization.

https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/Welcome_Page.html I hope to see you there.

Tempus fugit. As we age, this phrase gains deeper significance. Before I retired, I worked 50 to 55 hours a week, and it felt like I had little to no time or energy to devote to my model railroad. However, I did find time to order items online or from *The Train Station* until my shelves became overflowing. My belief was that once I retired, I would have all the time in the world to focus on modeling. I remember reading a magazine article about someone who achieved that and built a marvelous model railroad during his retirement. I even considered working toward my MMR®. However, it doesn't always unfold as planned. Less than a year after my retirement, I received a devastating diagnosis of metastatic prostate cancer, which drastically shortened my expected lifespan.

My modeling activity has significantly slowed down, although I still hope to achieve some of my goals. I have also had to reassess my ability to fulfill my responsibilities as your Superintendent. I have decided to step down from this position on May 31, 2025. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve Division 6 to the best of my ability. The Board of Directors has accepted my resignation, and others have stepped up to the remainder of my term. I sincerely regret having to do this, but it seemed better than remaining in the role and performing ineffectively.

I want to thank all my friends in the Division for their support, including Michael Percy, Matt Goodman, Mike Wolf, Ken McDonough, Carter Jastram, Don Wilke, Greg Short, Scott

Buckeye Express Issue

May 15–18

Embassy Suites

5100 Upper Metro Place

Dublin

Important Deadlines

April 23 – The final day to register at the Hotel for rooms at the convention rate.

Visit the **Buckeye Express** website (<https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org.html>) and select the Hotel Tab to locate the **Embassy Suites Registration** button.

May 2 – The final day to register for the Banquet.

Visit the **Buckeye Express** website (<https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org.html>) and select the Banquet Tab to locate the **Online Banquet Registration** button.

May 17 – The final day to register for the Buckeye Express Convention.

Visit the **Buckeye Express** website (<https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org.html>) and select the Registration Tab to find two ways to register, or you can register at the Registration Desk in the Embassy Suites during the convention.

Model Contest: Buckeye Express Model Contest

Virtual Photo Contest: Buckeye Express Photo Contest

Super's Signal Deadline
24 May

Brown, Dick Briggs, Butch Sage, George Stringer, and Darrell and Connie Logan. If I've left anyone out, I apologize.

I recommend recognizing that each day is a gift. Use it wisely.
Happy Modeling.

Bob Baker

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent

Michael Percy:

AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Clerk

Matt Goodman:

DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Pay Master

Carter Jastram:

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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

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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. Membership Meeting The Guernsey Valley Model Railroad Club Cambridge 6 April 2025

Matt Goodman, Clerk

Call to Order

The Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Matt Goodman, Division 6 Clerk, at 2:00 p.m.

Division 6 Officers Present:

Clerk

Matt Goodman

Paymaster

Carter Jastram

Achievement Program

Dick Briggs, MMR®

Division 6 Chairs Present:

Buckeye Express Convention

Greg Short

Company Store

Greg Short

Raffle

Scott Brown

Train Show

Greg Short

Absent:

Superintendent

Bob Baker

Assistant Superintendent

Michael Percy

Director

Ken McDonough

Director

Don Wilke

Director

Mike Wolf, MMR®

Contest

Don Wilke

Election Nominations

Harry "Butch" Sage

Membership Retention/Recruitment

Mike Wolf, MMR®

Membership

Ken McDonough

Programs

Michael Percy

Super's Signal Publisher

Don Wilke

Webmaster

Don Wilke

Announcements

Matt Goodman stated that Bob Baker was unable to attend due to illness and sent his best wishes.

Matt thanked Jonathon Thompson, President of *The Guernsey Valley Model Railroad Club*, along with members George, John, Mark, Chuck, and others for hosting the *Buckeye Division's Monthly Membership Meeting*. He acknowledged the significant effort the club made to re-establish and re-incorporate itself.

Matt also mentioned that this would be a shorter meeting due to attendance and to allow time to view the extensive railroad. The reports section of this document is also very brief for this reason.

Matt then welcomed new member Terry O'Shea. Terry is a transplant from Luton, UK, about twenty miles north of London. He spent his formative years train spotting as a teenager during the steam era (around 1957). One memorable spot was a Beyer-Garrett, an unusual locomotive in his area. Terry's work brought him to Ohio many years ago, and

The Clerk's Report
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Continued: **Clerk's Report**

he currently models American prototype in O-Scale.

Reports

Super's Signal Report: No report. However, Matt confirmed with Don Wilke after the meeting that the deadline for the May issue is Sunday, April 13th.

Retention and Recruitment Report: Matt Goodman for Mike Wolf. We need two volunteers to set up tables for the *Lancaster Hobby Expo* on Friday, April 11, and two more volunteers to manage the Buckeye Division's recruiting table from 12-3 on Saturday, April 12. Doug Kullman and Joe Brackett have both tentatively offered their help, pending calendar checks.

Achievement Program Report: Dick Briggs. Dick presented **Carter Jastram** with a *Certificate of Achievement for Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical*. Carter accepted it with a wide smile! Well done, Carter!

Buckeye Express Convention: Greg Short. Greg gave a brief report on the registration count; just over 100 individuals have signed up for the convention.

Program: Matt Goodman for Michael Percy and Mike Wolf. Members should reach out to either person with suggestions for Clinics or Mini-Clinics at Marion.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to address.

New Business:

There was no New Business to address.

Club Reports:

No club member presented a club report.

Raffle:

Scott Brown

There was no raffle held 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.

Contest

Virtual Photo Contest–Caboose: The photo contest resulted in a three-way tie for all positions. They are:

1st Place (Tie)

Bob Baker, *D&RGW at Osier Colorado*

Ken McDonough, *Pennsy N5 cabin car in Bradford, OH.*

Howdy Lamprecht, *BC Rail Caboose #1874 over Ice Fork Creek*

♦ Everyone assumed this was Bob Baker's photo.

2nd Place (Tie)

Matt Goodman, *A lonely B&O caboose on a farm*

♦ Matt said the photo was taken on old US23 (now called Orr Road), immediately south of Kinnikinnick Creek in Ross County. He had no story about how the caboose ended up there and assumed it was a foamer like us. The photo was taken with a Nikon D5500 using a 300mm "travel" lens.

Mike Wolf, *Caboose next to an Art Gallery in Steamboat Springs CO.*

Mike Wolf, *New Mexico Rail Runner Express Caboose*

3rd Place (Tie)

Matt Goodman, *Two Laserkits models of the N&W CF Caboose*

♦ Matt noted that one of the kits was built by his father, the other by himself. The photo was taken on his layout in front of Maizo Mills.

Doug Kullman, *NYC caboose at the NYC Museum in Elkhart, IN.*

Ken McDonough, *CN van at Confederation Bridge Park in Borden, Prince Edward Island*

♦ This was also thought to be Bob Baker's photo!

Model Contest–Caboose: Today's winners are:

Second Place: Greg Short, *Mononncahela Caboose #68*

First Place: Dick Briggs, *CTS #X6 Work Train Caboose*

The June 21st contest is a **Favorite Train** for both the Virtual photo and Model Contest.

Remember, a member may only enter photos taken by oneself.

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 will be on Saturday, June 21st. Keep an eye on the *Signal* for the start time. This is our annual long-form meeting. Be sure to check the website and *Super's Signal* for exact details, as things may have changed since this report was written.

Adjournment:

Matt adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm so the train watching could continue.

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		



Retention Committee Progress Report

By Mike Wolf, MMR®

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Retention Committee's survey. At last count, 45 members have completed the survey. If you haven't had the chance yet, the survey is still available at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2F2N7ZP>.

Since most committee members are also working on next month's convention, we haven't had a chance to digest all the data. However, I have looked through the various charts and comments, and you will notice several changes to our monthly meetings, starting with our annual pilgrimage to Marion in June.

As you would expect, numerous comments conflict with others – I'm not available Saturdays/I'm not available Sundays, more meetings/fewer meetings, etc. But one underlying theme in many of the suggestions is that the division needs YOUR participation. More layout tours require more layout owners willing to open their basements, more clinics require more clinicians willing to take the time to present one, and more hands-on modeling requires more people willing to do the legwork ahead of time to make it happen. As has been said by the NMRA President numerous times, it's not what the NMRA can do for you, it's what you can do for the hobby that powers the NMRA. The Division is YOU. Don't just belong, PARTICIPATE.

Speaking of Marion, I'm still searching for clinics or mini-clinics...

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.



Celebrating 90 Years!

Ken McDonough
Membership Coordinator

The January 2025 issue of *NMRA Magazine* features several articles commemorating the 90th anniversary of the NMRA. Bulletin #1 from the NMRA dated November 1935 (found on page 11) then said in part: "The National Model Railroad Association was formed with the following purposes:

ESTABLISH STANDARDS -
PROMOTE FELLOWSHIP -
FACILITATE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EQUIPMENT - HOLD NATIONAL EXHIBITS -
ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR MERCHANDISE."

I am thankful for those dedicated folks who came before to develop and promote standards so our models are inter-



changeable and we can operate on each other's layouts. Today, in Division 6, we continue to strive to serve these same goals by promoting fellowship and facilitating the exchange of information about the hobby during our monthly meetings, presenting clinics, sharing *What's On Your Workbench* in discussion groups, meeting to build and operate layouts, and much more. Let's continue to find ways to encourage others to enjoy this hobby, share our skills, exchange information about prototype railroads and operations, and encourage others to join the NMRA. Each of us is an ambassador for this great hobby - let's do all we can to promote it!



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.



Long-Distance Corridors and Central Ohio



The Good News

Passenger rail politics have evolved over time based on who holds power. Former President Joe Biden was optimistic about expanding Amtrak across the country. During his administration, Amtrak announced that several Ohio cities could be included in its next passenger rail expansion, which is still years away. In December 2023, Amtrak allocated \$500,000 to plan for each of these four corridors:

- Cincinnati-Dayton-Columbus-Cleveland
- Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit
- Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus-Pittsburgh with connector service via Lima, Kenton, Marysville, Newark, Coshoc-ton, Newcomerstown, Uhrichsville, and Steubenville.
- Increasing Amtrak's current route frequency to Cincinnati from New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

On April 9, the Ohio House allocated \$25,000 for each year of the \$61 billion two-year budget to rejoin the *Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission*. This Commission is a coalition of state leaders advocating for passenger rail im-

provements. Ohio withdrew from the Commission in 2013 during the administration of Governor John Kasich, who declined \$400 million in federal funding intended to support a Cleveland-to-Cincinnati passenger train.

All Aboard Ohio, an organization that advocates for public transportation and passenger rail in the Buckeye State, has lobbied for Ohio's reinstatement into the multi-state commission. Mitch Radakovich, the board chair of *All Aboard Ohio*, informed lawmakers, "Without a seat at the table, we risk missing critical funding opportunities and making costly missteps as we work through the planning process."

The Bad News

The change isn't final yet. Lawmakers in the Ohio Senate will adjust the state's two-year budget and resolve those differences before sending the bill to Gov. Mike DeWine. The deadline for a balanced budget is June 30.

Last month, billionaire Elon Musk, who is advising President Donald Trump on reducing the size of the U.S. government, stated that Amtrak should be privatized. Shortly afterward, Amtrak CEO Stephen Gardner resigned.

History Shows Privatizing Passenger Rail Already Failed

Amtrak was established in 1971 because private railroads could not make intercity passenger rail financially viable. Passenger service was unprofitable and burdensome for freight railroads. Re-privatizing would simply repeat a failed model that resulted in the creation of Amtrak. While AAO supports the inclusion of more private operators, none of them are performing, or will perform, the role that Amtrak has fulfilled since 1971 – providing regular passenger rail service to communities that need it, where private capital cannot profitably offer it.

British Rail was privatized by the British Government years ago. After many years, it became a problem that the British Government took control of much of British Rail.

Florida's Brightline is profitable, but it does not depend on ticket sales. Its profits come from real estate development near the stations.



Bump Caps

Matt Goodman

After years of bumping my head on various things (most notably my layout's benchwork), I started searching for a solution. First, I tried something resembling a skull cap, but found it too hot. After another year of sustaining scrapes on my ever-balding noggin, I began the search again. This time, I found something called a "bump cap."

Bump caps are marketed to mechanics, HVAC technicians, and others who need exactly what I'm looking for: something to prevent minor injuries without requiring a full-on construction helmet.

Because I have a long, narrow head, I purchased two caps: one under the brand name "Green Devil" and the other from "Ergodyne" to improve my chances of getting a good fit. I ended up with the former.

Both brands offer long, medium, and short bills. Since I will be using this mainly under the layout, I chose the short bill. So far, I'm pleased with this purchase. It's not so thick that it limits where I can put my head, and I don't have to be nearly as careful getting into and out of tight spaces!

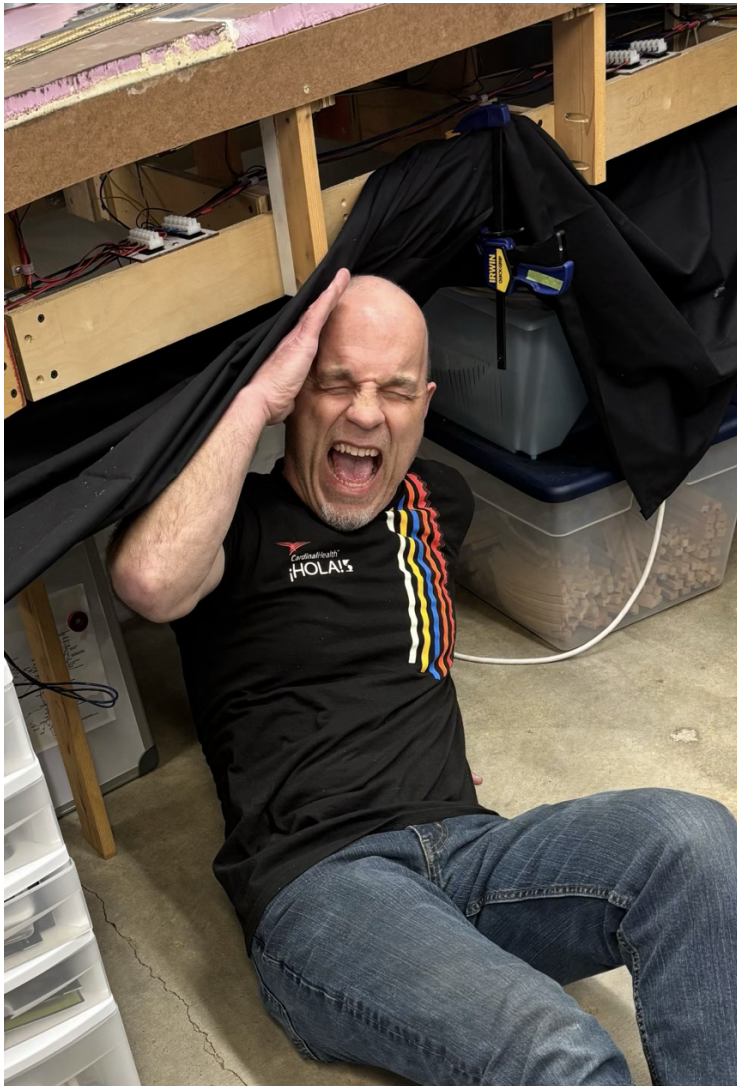


Figure 1
(Photo by Christy Goodman)



Figure 2
(Photo by Christy Goodman)

Buckeye Division Meeting at Cambridge

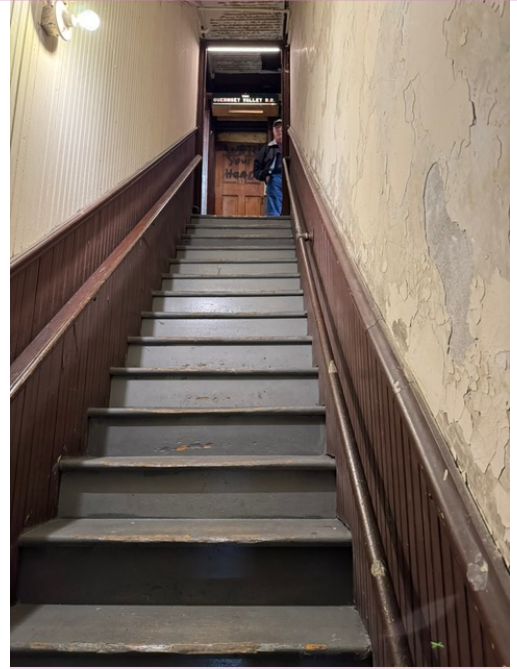
Various Division Members



Carter Jastram receives his Achievement Certificate for Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical from MMR® Dick Briggs



The Cambridge Club building



The stairs at the Cambridge Club. Anyone else think about the former Zanesville Club?



The Cambridge Club



The Cambridge Club



The Cambridge Club

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

April Contest: *Caboose*

Virtual Photo Contest

1st Place (Tie)

Bob Baker, *D&RGW at Osier Colorado*
 Ken McDonough, *Pennsy N5 cabin car in Bradford, OH.*
 Howdy Lamprecht, *BC Rail Caboose #1874 over Ice Fork Creek*

2nd Place (Tie)

Matt Goodman, *A lonely B&O caboose on a farm*
 Mike Wolf, *Caboose next to an Art Gallery in Steamboat Springs CO.*

Mike Wolf, *New Mexico Rail Runner Express Caboose*

3rd Place (Tie)

Matt Goodman, *Two Laserkits models of N&W Caboose*
 Doug Kullman, *NYC caboose at the NYC Museum in Elkhart, IN.*
 Ken McDonough, *CN van at Confederation Bridge Park in Borden, Prince Edward Island*

Model Contest

First Place: Dick Briggs, *CTS #X6 Work Train Caboose*

Second Place: Greg Short, *Mononncahela Caboose #68*



*.1st Place Model on the Club Layout
 by Dick Briggs
 Copyright by the entrant*



*1st Place (Tie) Virtual Photo
 by Ken McDonough
 Copyright by the entrant*

May Contests: *Buckeye Express* entry

Contest Point Summary April 2025

Modeler 2025

Matt Goodman	8	Howdy Lamprecht	4
Greg Short	7	Dick Briggs	3
Scott Brown	6	Paul Bender	2
Carter Jastram	4		

Photographer 2025

Matt Goodman	13	Ken McDonough	6
Mike Wolf	13	Dick Briggs	4
Howdy Lamprecht	7	Connie Logan	3
Bob Baker	6	Scott Brown	2
Doug Kullman	6	Joe Brackett	1

April Contest Winners:

https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org/ContestFold/contest250406-D/Contest_250406.html



1st Place (Tie) Virtual Photo
by Bob Baker
Copyright by the entrant



1st Place (Tie) Virtual Photo
by Howdy Lamprecht,
Copyright by the entrant



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

