Super's Signa

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



Superintendent's Report Dick Briggs, MMR[®], Division 6 Superintendent

Well, it's summer and we enjoyed the sunshine and the first heat of the season while making our annual pilgrimage to the historic Marion Union Station. Everyone present enjoyed a day full of informative clinics organized by Mike Wolf, MMR[®], our new Program Chair. The meeting was frequently interrupted by NS stack trains, and attendees had to endure the dreaded annual "Membership Meeting." We assure members they will not have to attend a Division 6 Business Meeting until next June.

Over the last few months, the Membership Committee reviewed the results and made its recommendations to the Board of Directors, BOD. The BOD decided to implement several changes in the meeting content based on the preferences of the members who responded.

New and exciting changes are being made at our July meeting. See the article by Mike Wolf elsewhere in the Signal for details. Other noteworthy news is as follows,

WEBSITE FACE LIFT

We are currently updating the Division website. The goal is to make it more user-friendly, add some color, update and correct the content. Updating the site will also make it more attractive to non-members searching for model railroad activities in our area. It will also let us have multiple editors for the content.

BUCKEYE EXPRESS CONVENTION NEWS

Congratulations to Greg Short, his committee, and the great group of volunteers and outstanding clinicians. You made the Buckeye Division proud by hosting a fantastic event for the Region's modelers. Besides a great event, you managed to put a few dollars in the piggy bank. Once again, thank you to all involved for a job well done! 17 July (*Thursday*) Business Meeting on Zoom

20 July (*Sunday*) Reynoldsburg Library 1402 Brice Road Room 1&2

1:00: Program Meeting at Reynoldsburg Library1:30: Close Freight Car Bring-N-Brag Submissions Open2:00: Welcome and General Announcements

2:15: Bring-N-Brag: Closed Freight Car

2:30: Discussion: Benchwork, Backdrops, Fascia

2:45: Layout Open House: Yoakum

Super's Signal Deadline 25 July

RAFFLE NEWS

We need items to encourage members to buy tickets for our monthly drawings. If you have any new or gently used items, please consider donating to the cause. Please see Scott Brown at the next meeting. As a new twist, we will hold a drawing at our March meeting for two \$100 gift certificates that went unclaimed at the convention. All you need to do is attend a meeting. Every time you attend a meeting, you will get a ticket. The more meetings you attend, the better your chances of winning. You need to attend the March meeting to receive a certificate.

HOWARD SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD

In June 2015, Greg Short established this award, which is given to a person who demonstrates outstanding service and dedication to Division 6. It is awarded by the Division Superintendent during the Annual Meeting each June. This year, the list of members deserving this recognition was guite long, making the Continued on Page 4.

DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

Superintendent Dick Briggs, MMR®:

Super@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Assistant Superintendent Michael Wolf[®]: AssistSuper@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Clerk Matt Goodman: DepClerk@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org

Pay Master

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

Directors

Mark Krueger, Ken McDonough, Donald Wilke: 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:

Jerry Doyle president@midcentral-regionnmra.org

NMRA Central District Director:

Robert Beaty, MMR[®]

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The Buckeye Division, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc., known as the Division 6, 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. Page: 2

Clerk's Report Buckeye Division, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Annual Meeting Mar Mario9n 21 June 2025 Matt Goodman, Clerk

Call to Order

The Division 6 Annual Meeting was called to order by Dick Briggs, Division 6 Superintendent, at 12:00 p.m.

Dick Briggs, MMR[®]

Mike Wolf. MMR[®]

Matt Goodman

Carter Jastram

Mark Krueger

Jim Kehn, MMR[®]

Division 6 Officers Present:

Superintendent Assistant Superintendent Clerk Paymaster Achievement Program Director Director Director

Ken McDonough Don Wilke **Reports**

Clerk's Report: Matt Goodman

Matt Goodman recapped the changes in the division Officers and Board of Directors following the resignations of Bob Baker and Michael Percy. This includes Dick Briggs as Superintendent, Mike Wolf as Assistant Superintendent, and Mark Krueger as Director.

Matt reported that attendance at the nine meetings over the past twelve months averaged 15, which is roughly 11% of the average membership during that period.

The Clerk's Report in the *Super's Signal* was approved by the members present.

Paymaster's Report: Carter Jastram

Carter presented the financial status of the Buckeye Division and the *Buckeye Express Convention*. The report, as read, was approved by the present members, pending audit.

Buckeye Express Convention: Greg Short

Greg provided a brief overview of the *Buckeye Express* and thanked everyone for their efforts in making it a success. He had a Tichy Tank Car, the Convention Car, available for sale. Check the website for prices.

Membership Report: Ken McDonough

Membership is now 151 members, a notable rise since the start of the year. The division gained one new member in May – **Brian Fowler**. Ken also reported a strong renewal count.

Webmaster and Publisher: Don Wilke.

The website has undergone some significant changes, with pages relocated from the Buckeye **Super's Signal** The Clerk's Report Continued on Page 3.

July 2025

Continued: Clerk's Report

Division's Main Website (https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/) to the Division's Archive Website (https://archive2.div6-mcr-nmra.org). Don explained the purpose of each website like this: The Main Website contains pages and information with current or frequently changing details, such as the division Timetable and Meeting Information. The Archive Website contains pages that are usually static. Examples include the Company Store, Awards, and Super's Signal.

The Super's Signal deadline is Friday, June 27.

Officer, Committee Appointments, and Superintendent's Remarks: Dick Briggs.

Dick covered a variety of topics related to how he will guide the Buckeye Division

- Updates to committees:
 - o AP Chair Jim Kehn
 - o Nominating Committee Chair Michael Percy
 - o Legal Advisor, Statutory Agent Christopher Walsh
 - o Program Chair Mike Wolf
 - o Modular layout lead Butch Sage
 - o Election Committee Chair Butch Sage
- Changes to the meeting structure to streamline it and make it more engaging.
 - o Division business content will be moved from the monthly Programs to a separate Zoom call.
 - o Monthly Programs will feature themed topics.
- Attendees of the monthly Program Meeting will receive a raffle ticket through April, which will be entered into a drawing the following spring.
 - o The May 2026 drawing prize is a \$100 gift certificate from Scale Trains.
- Simplify, organize, and update the division website.

There was a discussion about the modular layout effort. Butch's responsibility is to recruit or track down members interested in this area. If there is enough interest, a committee and chair will be formed from that group. The committee will decide which standard(s) the modules will follow and define their scope. If Butch doesn't find enough interest, the initiative will be put on hold.

Achievement Program Report: Jim Kehn, Dick Briggs

Superintendent Dick Briggs announced that Jim Kehn would be taking over as AP Chairman during his tenure as Superintendent. Two AP Certificates were presented.

- New AP Chair Jim Kehn presented Carter Jastram with his Certificate of Achievement for Association Volunteer.
- Dick Briggs, past AP Chair, presented Jim Kehn with his Certificate of Achievement for Model Railroad Engineer Civil.

Congratulations to Carter and Jim!

Jim shared his vision for the AP program and urged the members to document the work they've done and reach out to him with questions or for guidance. If he doesn't know the answer, he will find it.

Howard Smith Memorial Award:

The Howard Smith Award is a discretionary honor awarded by the Superintendent to a member who has significantly helped the Buckeye Division. In former Superintendent Bob Baker's absence, Dick Briggs presented the award to Ken McDonough for his help with the *Buckeye Express Convention*. Ken mentioned that it was a team effort, and the award is equally earned by everyone who contributed to making the convention successful.

Congratulations to Ken for this well-deserved recognition!

New Business

Program Report: Mike Wolf

Mike outlined the changes to the Meeting Format recommended by the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee.

Program Meeting Format:

Traditional clinics will be replaced with guided discussions focused on a specific subject or theme. One person will introduce the topic, and then attendees will discuss it, share their methods, ask questions, and engage in further discussion. The leader will keep the discussion "on track". The leader rotates each month and will be "volunteered" via email shortly after the previous program. Division 6 members are encouraged to submit ideas, photos, and other materials that the leader can use during the introduction or guided discussion. This is a sharing session designed to help attendees become better modelers.

Program Meeting Schedule and Locations:

Most Program Meetings will take place in the Columbus metro area. The Marion Program will continue annually, with another rotating nonmetro location (such as Zanesville or Coshocton). The **The Clerk's Report** Continued on Page 4. Continued: Clerk's Report Program Meetings will continue to alternate between Saturday and Sunday, and we hope to hold at least one layout or club open house each month.

Layout Tours:

The location for the Program Meeting will be paired with local layouts that are open after the program session ends. For example, a Program Meeting in Westerville will include layouts in that area as part of the event. Some layouts will be nearly complete, others may only have a few sections finished, and some layouts will be newly constructed with limited operations.

Business Meeting:

The Business Meeting, which includes reports from the Clerk, Paymaster, and Membership, as well as Old and New Business, will be held on

Continued: The Super's Report decision rather difficult. It was our great honor to present this year's award to Ken McDonough for his tireless service and attention to detail. [Editor: A list of past winners is available on the Division 6 Archive website under the Award tab.]

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER[®] # 793

Jim Kehn, MMR®, received his certificate and plaque at the Buckeye Express Convention banquet from Ray Zoom on the Thursday preceding the monthly Program Meeting. All members are welcome, and information on how to access the Zoom meeting will be shared via the Signal, MailChimp, and Groups.io emails.

Annual Meeting:

The Buckeye Division Regulations require an Annual Meeting. It will continue to happen in person at Marion. There are discussions about possible changes to its content.

Website Changes:

An ad hoc working group is looking into various web platforms to give the website a face lift.

Mike, Matt Goodman, and Don Wilke are involved. Mark Krueger expressed interest in helping.

Adjournment:

The business meeting adjourned about 1 pm.

Pershing, National AP Manager. Congratulations, Jim, on a job well done. Jim has volunteered to serve as the new Division 6 AP Chair, and he is eager to help other members. You can locate Jim's contact details on the homepage of the website.

That about wraps up the news for this edition.

Keep on movin' down the rails.

Dick Briggs, MMR®

Company Store Update Greg Short

The division is offering Buckeye Oil tank car kits to its members for \$25 each. The kit includes three different build dates, one of which is Jimmy Ruisinger's birthday. This price is valid only if a division member purchases the kits for personal use, pays for them, and picks them up at a division meeting. Shipping costs and ordering details are available on the Division 6 Store Page on the Division Archive website.



Super's Signal

July 2025

New Meeting Formats Mike Wolf, Program Chair

For those who missed the Annual Meeting in Marion in June, several changes to how Division 6 conducts meetings were announced.

Most importantly, there will be no business discussions during our monthly weekend meetings. While there will still be welcomes, announcements, and raffles, the rest of the meeting will focus on Modelers helping Modelers. Each month, a volunteer will lead a discussion on a specific topic. Whether sharing your successes (or setbacks) or learning something new, everyone should benefit from the expertise that members of this division can offer. Contests have been replaced with Bring 'n Brag (or Show 'n Tell if you aren't a bragger). Bring your model that represents the category of the month and share your work with others. Whether it was the first locomotive you've ever owned or a Region Contest Winner, share why the item is special to you. The discussion topic and Bring-N-Brag item of the month will be listed on the division's website.

Additionally, there will be a greater focus on layout tours and club participation. I've already contacted many of the layout owners and club representatives in the division. If you're interested in adding your layout or club to my database, please contact me at wvunion@gmail.com. For those interested in Division 6's month-to-month operations, all members are welcome to participate in the monthly Business Meetings, usually held in the evening on the 3rd Thursday of each month via Zoom. The schedule is posted on the division's website, and Division Clerk Matt Goodman will send the Zoom link through Mail-chimp.

Finally, we are planning a Holiday Party for the December meeting. If you have a suggestion for the venue, please get in touch with Superintendent Dick Briggs.

These changes (and other exciting announcements to come) are a result of your responses to the Retention Committee's survey earlier this year.



Super's Signal

Due to the changes announced at the Marion Meeting regarding our regular Division Meetings, this timetable page has divided the year 2025 into two sections. The first section presents the proposed changes to the meeting content and highlights three dates each month that the membership should be aware of. Refer to the timetable on the next page for the the meetings we've held this year.

New Division 6 – 2025 Time Table						
Date	Meeting	Торіс	Bring-N-Brag	Layout Open House	Location	
17 July (Thur)	Business				Zoom	
20 July (<mark>Sun</mark>)	Program	Benchwork, Backdrops, Fascia	Closed Freight Car	Yoakum	Reynoldsburg Library	
25 July (Fri)		Super's Signal Deadline				
14 Aug (Thur)	Business				Zoom	
16 Aug (Sat)	Program	Track-work	Structure	McDonough, Stringer	Westerville Library	
22 Aug (Fri)		Super's Signal Deadline				
18 Sept (<i>Thur</i>)	Business				Zoom	
21 Sept (<mark>Sun</mark>)	Program	Wiring Your Layout	Passenger Car	Wetterstroem, Delaware Club (Tentative)	Sunbury VFW or Town Hall	
26 Sept (Fri)		Super's Signal Deadline				
16 Oct (Thur)	Business				Zoom	
26 Oct (<mark>Sun</mark>)	Train Show			Guernsey Valley Club		
30 Oct (Tue)		Super's Signal Deadline				
13 Nov (Thur)	Business				Zoom	
15 Nov (Sat)	Program	Scenery	Non-Revenue/ MOW	Kokosing, Percy (Tentative)	Mt. Vernon Depot (Tentative)	
21 Nov (Fri)		Super's Signal Deadline				
11 Dec (Thur)	Business				Zoom	
13 Dec (Sat)	Holiday Party				TBD	
19 Dec (Fri)		Super's Signal Deadline				

At the Marion meeting, I gave a Mini-Clinic on building your own Stay–Alive decoder circuit. Here is the circuit I covered, along with the parts list.



Stay-Alive Circuit Schematic

Component	DigiKey Part Number	Cost
Zener Diode 14v 5W	1N5351BTPMSCT-ND	0.27
110Ω Resistor 1/2W	13-MFR50SFTE52-110RCT-ND	0.04
.22F 3.6V Capacitor	CBSV3R6224 <mark>HF</mark> -ZJ-ND	1.97
.47F 3.6V Capacitor	4688-CBH3R6474 <mark>HF</mark> -ZJ-ND	2.34
Diode 1000v 1A	4878- <mark>1N4007</mark> CT-ND	0.06
JST Plug 02SR-3S	455-3621-ND	0.98

There is flexibility in the total capacitance of the Stay–Alive system. The sum of the capacitance of four capacitors will equal the value of the capacitor chosen divided by the number of capacitors (0.47F / 4 = 0.118F).

However, the total voltage rating of the four capacitors is four times that of a single capacitor (3.6 V x 4 = 14.4 V). This voltage must be equal to or higher than the DCC track voltage, or you will see magic smoke. The Zener diode will also protect the capacitor bank from voltage spikes and is, in my opinion, not optional.

Achievement Program Report Jim Kehn, MMR®

For those who may not be aware, I have been appointed as the temporary AP Chair for the Buckeye Division by Superintendent Briggs, effective until May 31, 2026. My committee includes Dick Briggs[®], Mike Wolf[®], and Howdy Lamprecht[®]. I will also ask for help from others in areas I know little about, like electrical work.

If you want to work on an AP Certificate, I should be your first contact. I will consult with others and then submit any necessary paperwork to Frank Koch, the Mid Central Region AP Manager. If it meets Frank's approval, then it goes to the National Manager, Ray Persing, for final approval. The goal is to check all the boxes at the division level so that it doesn't get kicked back. So, if things seem slow at first, it's because I want it done right before sending it off.

At the Marion all-day Meeting on June 21, my first official duty was to present Carter Jastram with his AP Certificate for VOLUNTEER. Congratulations!

Carter has done a significant amount of work over the past few years, including serving as the Division 6 Paymaster and financial expert for the recent Regional Convention. Carter has done an excellent job, and this certificate is fully deserved. He will submit more paperwork toward his goal of becoming a Master Model Railroader®. I have several others pursuing certificates. Many of you have considered becoming an MMR[®] but find the work, especially paperwork, unappealing. Okay, I understand that, but it's not that hard. The goal of the AP (Achievement Program) is **not** to earn an award just to boast and claim I am a better modeler than someone else. The goal is to help YOU become a better modeler. Additionally, you're encouraged to share your knowledge and skills to assist others in improving. Plus, you'll have the chance to meet great people and enjoy yourself!

Visit the AP section on the NMRA website that displays all the requirements for each certificate. https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program

Golden Spike Award.

Here's what you need to do for the Golden Spike Award:

- 1. Rolling stock
- Show 6 units of rolling stock, whether scratchbuilt, kitbashed, or superdetailed.
- 2. Model Railroad Setting
- Minimum of eight (8) square feet, including scenery, in ANY SCALE.

- At least five structures, either scratchbuilt, kitbashed, or superdetailed.
- 3. Engineering Civil and Electrical
- Three (3) types of track, such as turnout, crossing, crossover, etc., with proper ballast and roadbed. The use of commercial track is acceptable.
- Proper wiring to enable the operation of two trains at the same time, such as double track, single track with passing siding, and a form of control.
- At least one electrical feature such as a powered turnout, signals, turnout indication, or lighted structure.

With these guidelines in mind, on Monday, June 23, the AP Committee visited new member Michael Yoakam's house to determine if he qualified for the Golden Spike Award. I asked each member if they saw six pieces of rolling stock, five buildings, proper trackwork, scenery, and a light or two inside a building. Observing and checking off the boxes took about five minutes.

With that job done, we spent the rest of the time just admiring Michael's work and offering suggestions on how to get more APs.

My next goal is for everyone who served on the 2025 Buckeye Express to document your volunteer points.

Also, those who provided clinics can use them for author or volunteer points. Several of the clinics I saw need to be developed into articles for national publications. You guys did a great job!

Don't delay doing this, especially if you want to work on an AP. Keep track of things like operating time on a layout and the work you completed. There are forms on the national website to help you keep track of the hours you spend on certain activities related to your AP Certificate. [Editor: The rumor is



Dispatcher Certificate

that National is going to have those forms available for use on your phone.]

It took me over 30 years to get my MMR®. Don't wait until you are a fat, old, decrepit, white-haired guy to do this. As Dick Briggs says, "It's NOT THAT HARD!"

Marion Meeting Were you there? Here's a summary of what happened at the meeting.

Make Your Own Stay Alive

Michael Wolf, MMR

Installs

Model Power FA-2 – caps split up



Mike demonstrated various Stay Alive capacitor configurations he uses on his model railroad. He provided specifications for designing several Stay Alive capacitors. See his article in this Signal for limited technical information.



Rail-fans doing what rail-fans do

List of trains during the meeting.

1300: CSX-EB
1325: NS-NB
1330: NS-SB
1435: CSX-WB
1450: CSX-SB
1515: NS-NB

Modeling Water Using UV Cured Resin

Mike Wolf, MMR

UV Cured Resin

PROs

- Quick Cure (5-7 minutes)
- Low chance for leaks
- Minimal fumes
- Doesn't creep
- Few Bubbles
- CONs
 Cost (vs 2 part resin)



which has the consistency of maple syrup.



resin in a pond after it was exposed to UV light for about two minutes.



Tips for Assembling the

Tape or glue (AC) the straps to the top of the tank, bend the straps and glue to the bottom.

Jimmy's Birthdate



Jimmy's Birthday is listed as one of the multiply built dates.

Super's Signal

Afternoon Marion Meeting Various Division Members



The Buckeye Express NMRA Mid Central Region Convention Dublin, Ohio May 15 - 18, 2025

Proto Freelancing the Conrail Columbus Belt Line in HO Scale

Steve Hipes



Steve Hipes explained the differences between Freelance Modeling, Prototypical Modeling, and Proto–Freelance Modeling. He had many photos of each type of modeling and said that a modeler should choose the type of modeling they liked.

Establish	plausibility
D	efine a specific geography
	Select a time frame
	Design your model railroad
	using specific elements from the real world
Operate	using standardized
	es and procedures.

Steve provided several guidelines for Proto–Freelance modeling, many of which could be applied to any modeling.



Matt Goodman explained the use and importance of a Bump Cap. During the discussion, he passed around his Bump Cap.



Dick Briggs handed out the NMRA Mid Central Region Model Contest Judges' Score Sheet Form #902 to each attendee. A copy of form #902 is available in the division's Archive at https://archive2.div6-mcrnmra.org/Contest_Forms/902-Model Judges Score Sheet.pdf. He then showed us a Virginian gondola in Model Railroad that Howard Smith submitted. The gondola was on display alongside the favorite trains. The gondola was scored over 100 points, more than the 871/2 points required for an AP Award.



He discussed the information on each category, then took a few questions and asked each attendee to record on their #902 form how many points they believed the model should receive. He continued this process for each category on the #902 form.





Kadee Conversion The Inexpensive Way

George Stringer

Kadee Coupler Replacement for NMRA Horn Hook Couplers

Some Do's and Do not's

- Do not mount Kadee Coupler pockets to the frame of a passenger car
- AHM and Athearn wheel sets should be changed to Kadee #521 or #522 non-magnetic wheel sets

George demonstrated a detailed process for replacing Horn Hook couplers on passenger cars with KD couplers.

Super's Signal



Mike Wolf



Howard Smith's Virginia gondola was featured in "Evaluating Cars and Structures for a Merit Award" by Dick Briggs. He placed it on the Bring-N-Brag table so attendees could view it.Howard Smith's Virginia gondola was featured in "Evaluating Cars and Structures for a Merit Award" by Dick Briggs. He placed it on the Bring-N-Brag table so attendees could view it.Mike Wolf



Jim Borcz Ohio State-themed paint for the Buckeye Fuel Oil tank car.



The SD40-2 I had in the Bring–N–Brag is lettered for my Freelance Columbus & Southern Ohio Railroad. It is a highly detailed stock Athearn model with parts from Detail West and Detail Associates. It was painted with Floquil Paints and decaled with decals I created, as well as Microscale decals. The C&SO operates several discarded ex-Conrail and Chessie lines throughout southeastern Ohio.

Please provide a description of your Bring-N-Brag. For next month, who was the manufacturer of the Closed Freight Cars? Was it kit-bashed, scratch-built, or weathered? Basically, what was the starting point, and what, if anything, did you do to it?



VendorsContactGreg - (740) 607-3223 - trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org