

# Super's Signal

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



## Superintendent's Report

Dick Briggs, MMR®, Division 6 Superintendent

Hot enough for you! Sure glad to be a model railroader and have an indoor hobby. Sorry, I missed our July Program Meeting. Many thanks to Mike Wolf for filling in for me while we attended a family reunion in Georgia. By all reports, it went well with lots of positive discussion about backdrops, benchwork, and facia. Many thanks to Mike Yoakum for sharing his beautiful layout with us.

The layouts scheduled for August belong to George Stringer and Ken McDonough. George's layout is highly detailed and completed, while Ken's is an excellent example of a layout in the construction phase. A perfect example of the discussion topics of the July and August meetings.

The August topic for discussion will be all about trackwork, and I'm fairly certain this topic will generate a lot of discussion. If you have photos or drawings you would like to share during the conversation, please send them to Mike Wolf so that he can assemble them into a slideshow ahead of the meeting. The meeting will take place at the Westerville Library on August 16th. If you have sample work you would like to share, bring it with you to the meeting.

The next Business Meeting will be held on August 14th at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, contact Matt Goodman for the link to the Zoom Meeting.

Dick Briggs, MMR®

## 14 August (*Thursday*) Business Meeting on Zoom

## 16 August (*Saturday*) Westerville Library 126 S State St Westerville

- 1:00:** Program Meeting at the Westerville Library
- 1:10:** Structure Bring-N-Brag Submissions Open
- 1:30:** Welcome and General Announcements
- 1:45:** Bring-N-Brag: *Structure*
- 2:00:** Discussion: *Trackwork*
- 3:00:** Open Layouts: Ken McDonough & George Stringer

*Super's Signal Deadline*  
**21 August**



## DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

### Superintendent

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### Assistant Superintendent

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### Pay Master

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### Directors

Mark Krueger,

Ken McDonough,

Donald Wilke:

[Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:Director@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

### Appointed Chairs

A full list of Division 6 Chairs can be found at:

[https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/Officers\\_Page.html](https://div6-mcr-nmra.org/Officers_Page.html)

**Web Master:** Don Wilke

[Web\\_Master@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:Web_Master@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

**Super's Signal Pub.:** Don Wilke

[SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org](mailto:SuperSignalPub@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

### Division 6 Web Site:

[www.div6-mcr-nmra.org](http://www.div6-mcr-nmra.org)

### Mid Central Region President:

Jerry Doyle

[president@midcentral-region-nmra.org](mailto:president@midcentral-region-nmra.org)

### NMRA Central District Director:

Robert Beaty, MMR®

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## *Clerk's Report Buckeye Division, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Business Meeting 17 July 2025*

Zoom Summary edited by Mike Wolf

### Quick Recap

The Business Meeting began with administrative matters, including attendance confirmation and technical setup, followed by discussions about financial matters and module building initiatives. The group reviewed various programming plans, including track work and upcoming presentations, while also discussing updates to the division website and venue options for future events. The meeting concluded with quick check-ins from key members and talks about layout projects and prize donations.

### Attendees

Richard Briggs - Superintendent

Michael Wolf – Asst. Superintendent/Program Chair/Acting Clerk

Carter Jastram – Paymaster

Donald Wilke – Director

Harry Sage – Modular Exploratory Committee

Robert Baker, David Evers - Members

### Next steps

Carter will check out the Old Bag of Nails in Westerville for a potential holiday party venue, including buffet options and costs.

Don will check if Carfagna's at Polaris has a separate party room for the potential holiday party venue.

Mike will continue gathering responses for the program survey and report the findings.

Mike will give a pitch on the track work topic and request photo submissions at the upcoming Program Meeting.

Mike will update the division website with a fallen flags/derailed members section.

Butch will send photos of his dad's layout to Mike for possible inclusion on the division website.

Dick will look for photos of Freitag's and Howard Smith's layouts for potential inclusion on the division website.

Mike will pick up the Train Show flyers from Darrell and start mailing and distributing them to hobby shops and clubs.

Mike will confirm with the Reynoldsburg Library about projector availability for the July program.

Carter will pay the next batch of sales tax to the State of Ohio upon his return.

## **Buckeye Division Modular Layout**

Harry "Butch" Sage

### **Would you like to participate in the building of modules for a Buckeye Division modular layout?**

Based on the survey results from earlier this year, the BOD has concluded that there may be enough interest in starting a modular layout program. Superintendent Dick Briggs asked me to take the lead on this to determine if there are truly enough Buckeye Division members willing to participate. I believe that a modular layout program would be a good way to promote the Buckeye Division, could be used as part of the planned "ops 'til you drop" program, and also promote fellowship within the division.

At the recent Buckeye Division meeting in Reynoldsburg, I circulated a signup sheet to gather the names of those interested in building modules. The question about the style of modules was asked, and I replied, "I don't know, that is a question for the participants." There is the double track continuous run style, as we previously had, and the Miami Valley group uses. There is also the Free-Mo style, which is more ops-oriented. (There are several Free-Mo groups in Ohio that may offer additional set-up opportunities.) At this point, nothing is set in stone.

We are now seeking members who were unable to attend the Reynoldsburg Meeting and are interested in building modules to speak up. Please express your interest by email to [buckeyedivisionmodules@gmail.com](mailto:buckeyedivisionmodules@gmail.com). I would like to present a status report at the next division business meeting, scheduled for August 14th. Please respond by August 13th.

Now is the time to speak up, because if sufficient interest does not develop, the BOD will shelve this initiative.

## **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](mailto: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 Mailchimp.

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.





### New Division 6 – 2025 Time Table

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

### 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.

**Special:** Join us at the Westerville Library Program Meeting to learn about a new exclusive set of limited tank car decals. The limited edition decals are only available with the purchase of a new tank car.

***Super's Signal***

July 2025



## Reynoldsburg Meeting

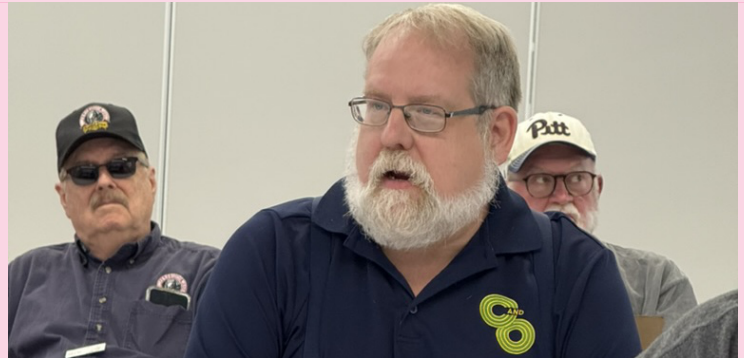
Were you there? Here's a summary of what happened at the meeting.

### July Meeting

- Welcome
- Announcements
  - Raffle
  - Survey – Topics, Ops, Holiday Party
  - Website – [www.NMRABuckeyeDivision.org](http://www.NMRABuckeyeDivision.org)
  - Achievement Program
  - Modules
  - Novi
- Bring n Brag
- Benchwork, Backdrops, Fascia & Valances

### Room Prep

- Floor
- Walls
- Electrical
- Lighting
- Ceiling



### Lighting Plan

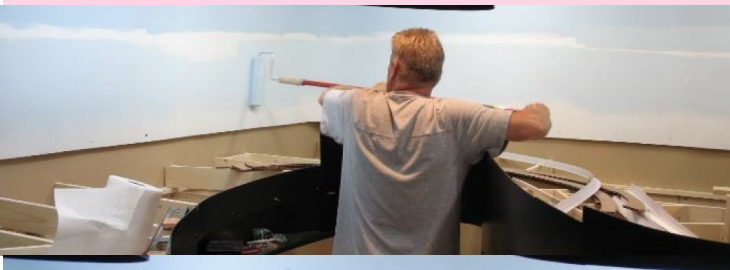
- Florescent/LED Tube
- Bulbs
- Overhead spots
- LED Strip





## Backdrops

- Materials
  - Drywall
  - Masonite
  - Styrene
  - Aluminum
- Height – Full or Partial Dividers



## Benchwork

- Materials
  - Dimensional Lumber
  - Plywood "Lumber"
  - Metal
  - Doors & Others
- Form
  - Open Frame
  - L Girder
  - Modules





## Multi Layer

- Height
- Support



## Bridges and Duckunders

- Avoid where you can
- Solid Frame and Joinery a must



## Fascia

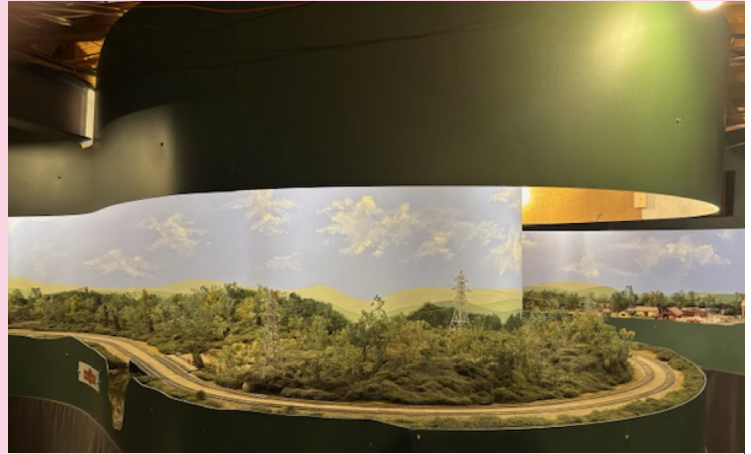
- Materials
- Fasteners
- Color
- Signage and Panels





## Valances

- Purpose
- Materials
- Mounting
- Color



## Achievement Program Report

Jim Kehn, MMR®



*Achievement Program Chair Jim Kehn presents Michael Yoakam with his Golden Spike Award*

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.

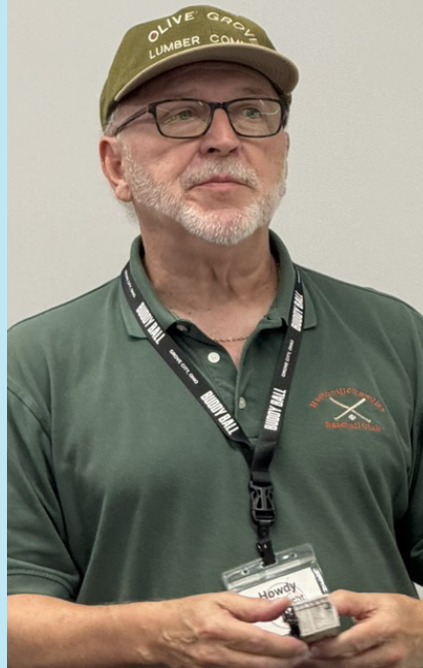
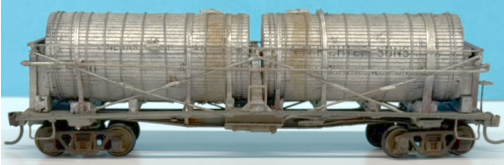
Also, those who provided clinics can use them for author or volunteer points. Several of the clinics I saw need to be developed into articles for national publications. You guys did a great job!

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 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!"



## Bring-N-Brag Favorite Train



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

# Seventh Annual NMRA Division 6

# Train Show

## Cambridge Ohio

**Sunday**

**October 26, 2025**

**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**

**HANDICAP ACCESS**

**ALL SCALES**

**ACCESSORIES**

**SCENERY**

**HOBBY TOOLS & SUPPLIES**

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](mailto:trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org)

