

Super's Signal

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



Superintendent's Report

Dick Briggs, MMR®, Division 6 Superintendent

Here we are at the end of the year, a year full of changes. We have changed our meeting format, concentrating on providing meaningful programs for you, our members. Next year, we will continue with the same format, featuring great programming under the watchful eye of our Program Chair, Mike Wolf.

Our last event of the year, our Holiday Party, was cancelled due to the snow that weekend. We have rescheduled the party for January 24th, 2026, at the same time and same place. If anyone else would like to join the festivities, let Carter know before the 20th.

January will also be a busy month for other division activities. On January 10th and 11th the *Great American Train Show* is at *The Fairgrounds*. If you can help man the Buckeye Division booth, please get in touch with Ken McDonough for details.

The 15th is our regular Business Meeting via Zoom. If you would like to attend, contact Matt Goodman for the link. The meeting usually lasts about an hour.

Saturday, the 17th, will be our Program Meeting with Matt Goodman leading the discussion about painting cars and structures. The meeting will start at 12:00 NOON because the library closes at 3:00. The "Bring and Brag" topic will be *"Open Car with Load"*.

15 January (*Thursday*) Business Meeting on Zoom

17 January (Saturday) Johnstown Library 320 N Main Street Johnstown

12:00: Johnstown Library opens

12:30: Program Meeting

Welcome and General Announcement

Bring 'n Brag - Open Car w/Load

Discussion Topic: Painting Cars & Structures

3:00: Johnstown Library Closes

Open Layouts: Walsh / Sage (Tentative)

Holiday Party

24 January

Super's Signal Deadline

22 January

After the meeting, Butch Sage and Chris Walsh will open their layouts for our division members to visit.

Here's wishing you and yours a happy and safe holiday season and hoping for a bountiful new year.

Dick Briggs, MMR®



DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

Superintendent

Dick Briggs, MMR[®]

Assistant Superintendent

Michael Wolf[®]

Clerk

Matt Goodman

Pay Master

Carter Jastram:

Directors

Mark Krueger,
Ken McDonough,
Donald Wilke:

Web Master:

Mike Wolf[®]

Super's Signal Pub. & Edit

Donald Wilke

Email Officers and Chairs at

NMRABuckeyeDivision@gmail.com

Include their title in the subject
line of the email.

Appointed Chairs

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

<https://www.nmrabuckeyedivision.org/about-us>

Division 6 Web Site:

www.nmrabuckeyedivision.org

Mid Central Region President:

Jerry Doyle

president@midcentral-region-nmra.org

NMRA Central District Director:

Robert Beaty, MMR[®]

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extent of the law consult your tax
advisor for details.

Clerk's Report Buckeye Division, Mid Central Region, NMRA, Inc. Business Meeting (Zoom)

11 December 2025

Matt Goodman, Clerk

Note:

The Business Meetings are held on the Thursday before our Program Meeting, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. See the Timetable Page on the website for the exact date. Any division member may attend the Business Meetings. If you want to attend, contact Clerk Matt Goodman at NmraBuckeyeDivision@gmail.com to get the Zoom details.

Call to order:

The Division 6 Business Meeting was called to order by Dick Briggs, Buckeye Division Superintendent, at 7:05 p.m.

Division 6 Officers Present:

Dick Briggs[®]: Superintendent

Michael Wolf[®]: Asst. Superintendent, Webmaster

Carter Jastram: Paymaster

Matt Goodman: Clerk, Media Chair

Ken McDonough: Director, Membership Chair

Donald Wilke: Director, *Super's Signal* Publisher

Division 6 Chairs Present:

Butch Sage: Elections Chair

Greg Short: Company Store Chair, Train Show Chair

Absent:

Mark Krueger: Director

Scott Brown: Raffle Chair

Jim Kehn[®]: Achievement Program Chair

Michael Percy: Nominations Chair

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Reports:

Clerk's Report: Matt Goodman

The November Clerk's Report was approved as published in the November *Signal*, pages 2-4.



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Paymaster's Report: Carter Jastram

Carter reviewed the CD and Checking Account balances and followed up after the meeting with specific balances and CD returns. Balances from the *Buckeye Express Convention* have been transferred into checking following the convention account closure. Payments have been made to the *Cambridge Convention Center* for the remaining balance owed for the *2025 Train Show* and for an initial payment to reserve the venue for the *2026 Train Show*.

The report was unanimously approved, subject to audit.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program: Dick Briggs for Jim Kehn

An AP Award for George Stringer's Electrical Certificate is on its way. Jim Kehn later reported via email that he is seeking help to evaluate Paul Bender's layout for his *Electrical Certificate* at the upcoming fairgrounds *Train Show*. Paul will be showcasing his N-Scale modules there.

Company Store: Dick Briggs for Scott Brown

Dick said Scott has 24 Tichy Tank Cars in stock and has \$70 from recent sales to give to the Paymaster next time they are in the same room.

Super's Signal: Don Wilke:

The next deadline for the *Signal* is December 18. Don would like everyone to submit their articles as soon as possible due to the holidays. He aims to publish the next edition before New Year's. Mike Wolf also supported this to allow time for publishing the *Signal* on the website and updating links before his holiday travel. He mentioned that Assistant Webmasters Matt Goodman or Mark Krueger might be able to handle this task.

Buckeye Division Website: Mike Wolf

The division's website is current for the December Holiday Party and includes the 2026 Timetable.

Media Report: Matt Goodman

No updates have been provided.

Membership Report: Ken McDonough

As of the end of November, we have 140 active members, two new members, six renewals, and one member whose membership expired in the last 30 days. There are no members in the 60 day expired group.

Among the new members, *Bradley Handsby* is from Zanesville, and *Scott Moline* is in New Albany. Ken mentioned that they have exchanged a few emails to share their interests. Welcome, **Bradley** and **Scott!** We look

forward to seeing them at an upcoming Program Meeting.

If division members have questions about their membership status, they should contact Ken. Refer to the website Contact Page for more details.

Program: Mike Wolf

The December event – the Holiday Party – is ready to go. Expenses, final details for drinks and desserts, and the tip for the caterer (City BBQ) were discussed. Dick Briggs will summarize how to access the venue since he is familiar with the church.

Note: Due to the weather, the event has been postponed. Watch for updates on the new dates.

Nominating Committee: Dick Briggs

Three current officers (Clerk, Paymaster, and Assistant Super) have expressed an interest in seeking a second term. Ken McDonough has agreed to run for the open Superintendent position. However, all four officer positions are still open to division member applicants. If you are eager to apply your skills to Buckeye Division operations, any interested division member should contact Michael Percy.

If Ken is elected, one Director position will become vacant. The Board of Directors will then fill the position. Ken has already contacted some members.

Train Show: Dick Briggs

The members of the Business Meeting discussed increasing table rental prices to better match other train shows. Nearby shows charge between \$30 and \$60 per table, compared to our \$15. They agreed on \$25 per table. Mike will create an updated flyer and send it to Darrell Logan for printing so we can start distributing it and updating the website.

Old Business

Convention Account: Carter Jastram:

Carter confirmed that the *Buckeye Express Convention* account funds were transferred to the division's checking account, which has now been closed.

New Business

Program: Mike Wolf

- ♦ The *Johnstown Library* will be available on January 17th. Chris Walsh and possibly Butch Sage will be available for layout tours. Because the library closes early, the discussion part will start slightly earlier than usual — at 12:30.

- ◆ Two tables have been secured at the *Great American Train Show* in January. *Operation Life Saver* will share the space with us. We can likely secure a third table to have more room. Mike will be out of town and needs help organizing volunteers, possibly by borrowing Dexter Hill's switching layout. This event lasts two days, requiring two shifts per day from 10 to 4.
- ◆ Mike reviewed the rest of the 2026 Timetable. See the Timetable Page on the website for details. One location, Zanesville, will need to rent a space because of the limited meeting room at the Zanesville Club. He is seeking ideas for a "Make and Take" program at the Marion meeting. Locations farther from Central Ohio will occur yearly (Mt. Vernon) or every other year (Coshocton).
- ◆ Spring *Ops til U Drop Event*. Mike Wolf has received positive feedback from layout hosts. It is likely to occur on April 11 or 12 next year. The event will continue to focus on introducing Buckeye Division members to operations. Non-members may be invited by layout hosts to fill in if all slots aren't filled by members.

Good of the Order, Other Business

Dick Briggs said that he has received an inquiry about a donation to the Buckeye Division. The group discussed

how this should be handled to recognize the contribution and to ensure the donor can take advantage of a tax perspective.

Mike Wolf demonstrated a couple of NMRA Buckeye Division logos that align with the new Vision 2035 branding. We had considered styling the division as MCR Division 6 or Buckeye Division. All were in agreement on the latter because the National requires it. He will send a copy to Matt Goodman to use in MailChimp templates.

There was a short discussion about how our division aligns with standards being developed by National from a health and consistency standpoint across all divisions. We have a mix of very good matches to areas that need improvement. This will be discussed in greater detail in the new year.

PPM (Policy and Procedure Manual). All officers and Committee Chairs need to spend time defining what each position is responsible for, and how those roles perform their day-to-day tasks. Mike encourages everyone to review their sections.

Adjournment

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Holiday Party Postponed

Early on Saturday morning, the Superintendent called several members of the Board of Directors to consolidate their views on the snow emergency. Due to the cold, winds, predicted snowfall amount, and weather warnings, the Superintendent decided to postpone the Buckeye Division Holiday Party. The new Holiday Party will still be held at Mary Magdalene Church, now on January 24. If you are registered and have paid Carter, all you have to do is come to the party. If you have registered but cannot attend the party, contact Carter for a refund. If you haven't registered for the Holiday Party, it's not too late. Contact Carter and pay him \$25 per person by January 20th. We hope you all can come and enjoy yourselves. More details for the party can be found on the Buckeye Division's website;

<https://www.nmrabuckeyedivision.org/upcoming>

*Don't Just Belong,
Participate!!*



DIVISION 6 OFFICIAL TIMETABLE

(Valid 1 January 2026 - 31 December 2026)

Date	Meeting	Discussion Topic	Bring'n Brag	Layout Open House(s)	Location
2026					
Jan 10-11	Recruiting	Great American Train Show			Ohio State Fairgrounds
Jan 15 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Jan 17 (Sat)	Program	Painting Cars and Structures	Open Car w/Load	Walsh / Sage	Johnstown Library (Noon start time)
Jan 22 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Jan 24 (Sat)	Social	New Year/Holiday Party	White Elephant Gift Exchange	NA	Mary Magdeline Church
Feb 19 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Feb 21 (Sat)	Program	AP/Building a Freight Car Fleet	Steam Loco	Argo / Matheny (T)	Dublin Library
Feb 26 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Mar 19 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Mar 22 (Sun)	Program	Operations	Caboose	Zanesville Club	Muskingum Convention Center
Mar 26 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Mar/Apr TBD	Social	Division 6 Ops Weekend		Up to 9 Division 6 Layouts	
Apr 16 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Apr 18 (Sat)	Program	Building cars	Closed Freight Car	Severson (T)	Newark Library (T)
Apr 23 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
May 14 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
May 17 (Sun)	Program	DCC - systems & decoders	Non-steam Loco	Goodman (T)/Grove City Layouts (T)	Hilltop Library (T)
May 21 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Jun 4-7		MCR - Dayton		Whistle Stop Dayton 2026	Dayton
Jun 18 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Jun 20 (Sat)	Program	Clinics or Make & Take/ Annual Meeting	Favorite Train	Marion Club (T)	Marion
Jun 25 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			

Dates and locations for the **January and February Program Meetings** have changed

Aug 13 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Aug 15 (Sat)	Program	Tools	Passenger car	Kokosing (T)/Percy (T)	Mt Vernon (T)
Aug 20 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Sep 17 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Sep 20 (Sun)	Program	Building Structures	Structure	CORMAC (T) / Richter (T)	Upper Arlington (T)
Sep 24 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Oct 15 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Oct 22 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Oct 25 (Sun)	Show	Division 6 Train Show			Cambridge
Nov 19 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Nov 21 (Sat)	Program	Laying Track	Bridges/Trestles	McDonough (T)/Stringer (T)	Westerville Library
Nov 25 (Wed)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Dec 10 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Dec TBD	Social	Holiday Party	Open Car w/Load		TBD
Dec 17 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			

Company Store Update



The Buckeye Division is offering *Buckeye Fuel Oil Company* 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's website.

New Limited-Edition *Davies Steel Company* Tank Car. *Davies Steel* was the layout designed by Dean Feytag, MMR®, a notable former member of the Buckeye Division and author of the book about steel mills and railroads. The limited edition *Davies Steel* decals are included in many, but not all, of the *Buckeye Fuel Oil Company* tank car kits. There is no extra charge, and since this is a limited edition, you cannot request a set of decals for a tank car you have already purchased. [Photos by Harry "Butch" Sage]

Ohio's Corridor ID Status

Possible Columbus Station Location

Two Corridor ID programs that pass through Columbus are each ready to proceed to the Second Phase of the Federal Railroad Administration's *Corridor Identification and Development Program*. The *Midwest Connection*, represented by two regional commissions, along with the city of Ft. Wayne, Ind., has committed some \$650,000 in funding for a proposed Amtrak service linking Chicago and Pittsburgh via Ft. Wayne and Columbus [H-A-D on the map.] The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) announced similar funding, including backing from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and about \$400,000 came from Ohio communities for the 3C+D [K-A-F on the map]. The funding provides the local match for federal funding in the Second Phase of developing the corridor routes. This involves creating a Service Development Plan, addressing details such as forecasting the demand for the service, train frequency, station locations, potential revenue, and environmental report.

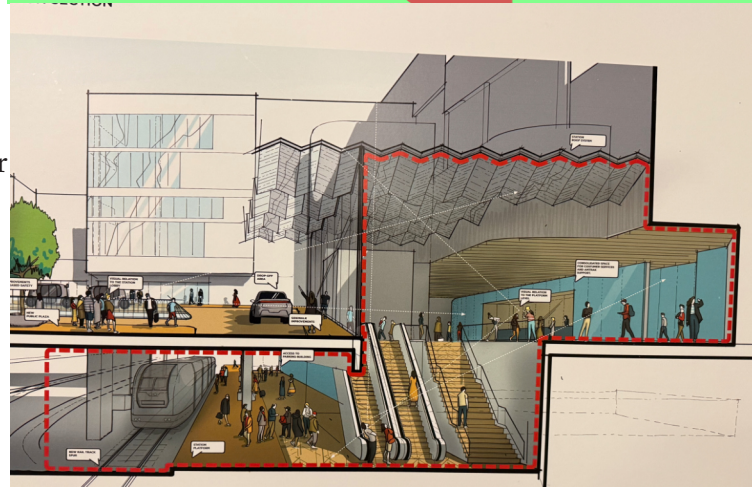
In November, a group of about 45 passenger rail advocates, led by *All Aboard Ohio*, met at the *Columbus Convention Center*. After a discussion and a presentation of an architectural rendering of a possible Station at the *Convention Center*, made a few years earlier (Photo 1), the session was opened for questions. Most of us then went downstairs and outside to the possible Station Lobby. We were then led up and down parts of the *Convention Center* and finally reached a gravel trackside field (Photo 2).

Two tracks are visible in the photo. The farther track, or the north track, is owned by CSX. As it continues to the left in the photo, it passes the Nationwide Arena to the north. Norfolk Southern owns the near track, and as it begins to curve, the single track becomes a double track and continues under the Nationwide parking garage.

The proposed Station Track, in blue, would go between the two sets of pillars, as shown, and the Station Platform would be just this side of the tracks.

Eastbound *Midwest Connection* trains would approach the Station from the left on the CSX tracks and then continue to the right past the airport toward Newark. Southbound 3C+D trains would come from the right on Norfolk Southern after passing through Worthington and then continue to the left, passing under the Nationwide parking garage. The current proposal for each corridor is three daily trains each way, for a total of 12 trains per day.

At this point, this is all conjecture because the purpose of the Second Phase is to determine where the stations will be located and what routes the trains will actually take.



Proposed Station Drawing
Photo 1



Proposed Passenger Track in blue
Photo 2

Wheel Gauge Checks

Matt Goodman

There is No Need to Check the Gauge of New RTR Cars and Locomotives!

After all, modern factories know what they're doing, and they have machines and fixtures that ensure NMRA Standards are adhered to. Right?

This was my viewpoint until a couple of years ago. That's when I noticed a new, expensive, modern-manufactured diesel was doing a little "hop" over the frog guardrail/wing rail of a turnout. More recently, during the prep of a new, expensive, modern-manufactured car for the layout, I noticed one car didn't roll as well as it should.

In the first case, the diesel had one wheelset with a significantly tight gauge (Photo 1). This was fairly easy to fix – a light pry while the wheelset was still in the truck resolved the problem (Photo 2).

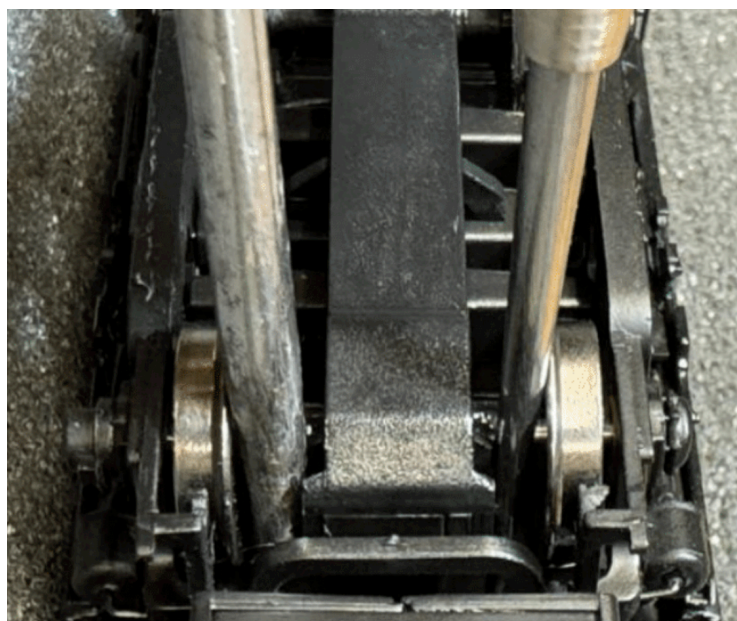
The second case, the poor rolling car, was weirder. I pulled both trucks off for tuning and found that all four wheelsets were in gauge, but one truck rolled fine while the other seemed to have a lightly stuck brake. Further investigation found that one wheelset had both wheels offset toward one side (Photo 3). This offset put one wheel into intermittent light contact with the frame. If the offset hadn't been severe enough to cause the rolling issue, I suspect the car would have been prone to derailment due to the truck "crabbing" down the track. This was fiddlier to fix since both wheels had to be moved an equal amount along the axle. Parallel jaw pliers, my thumbs, and a jeweler's hammer to the rescue (Photo 4).

All of these examples came from the same manufacturer. Of four freight cars I checked the same night that I found the "crabby" car, one additional one had a more minor gauge issue (Photo 5) – that's 12 ½% of the axles from that prepping batch.

So, check your wheel gauge out of the box now, save hair-pulling later!

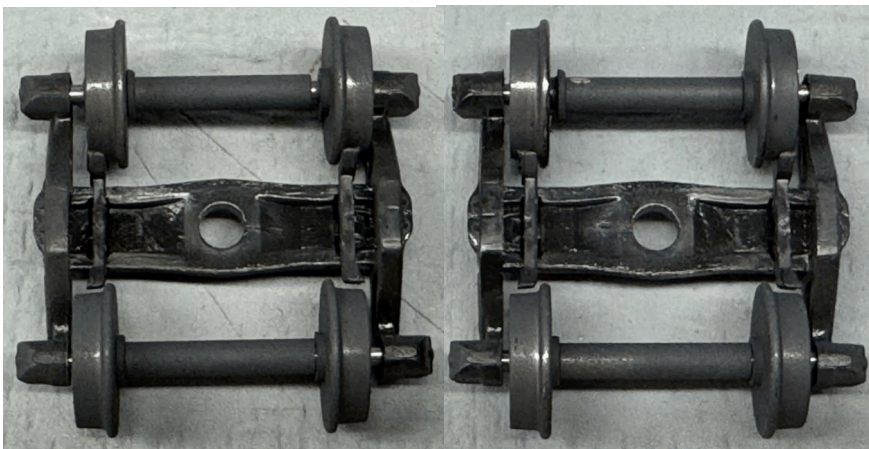


*Photo 1
Diesel with a tight gauge*



*Photo 2
Ad hoc fix*

*Photo 3
Both wheelsets are pushed as far left as possible. Note that the top one is barely clear of the truck sideframe.*



Normal side movement of the axle would allow the wheel to contact the frame, effectively applying a brake

*Photo 4
Post-fix.*



*Photo 5
The third example of tight gauging on a new, fresh-out-of-the-box RTR car.*

Spring Operations Weekend

By Mike Wolf, MMR®

Great news, our Division 6 Ops Weekend **is** returning this spring. I've received positive feedback from **TEN** layout owners, and we are aiming for March or April for this multi-day event. Keep an eye out for more details on the website, Groups.io, and the *Super's Signal*.

An Update from the Program Chair

By Mike Wolf, MMR®

On page 5 of this month's *Super's Signal*, you'll find the initial draft of the 2026 Timetable. Feedback so far on the changes we've made to the format of our meetings has been positive, and we will continue with the new format into 2026. The monthly topics also reflect your input, both in person and through surveys conducted in the past. Additionally, the following criteria have been used to build the schedule.

- a. Alternate between Saturday and Sunday afternoons.
- b. Rotate locations to maximize participation across as much of our geographic area as possible, focusing the majority of meetings in the population center of our membership, the greater Columbus area. This includes holding one meeting per year in Mt. Vernon and one in either Zanesville or Coshocton.
- c. A full-day event in Marion to include our *Annual Membership Meeting*.
- d. At least one layout open house in conjunction with

the monthly meeting.

I appreciate everyone's participation and contributions to our monthly meetings. If you have a potential mini-clinic for one of our monthly topics or would like to lead a discussion for an upcoming month, let me know. Also, if you have topics you'd like to see in an upcoming meeting or a layout you'd like to showcase, reach out to me at an upcoming meeting or vvunion@gmail.com.

One idea we're considering for the June Marion Meeting is a more hands-on or make-and-take format. Naturally, members would need to bring some tools or equipment, but we're looking for a project or projects that many of our members would be interested in trying and learning from. If you have any ideas, feel free to share them with me.

Finally, the website will always provide the most current information about upcoming meetings and any changes to the timetable.

Don't Just Belong, Participate!!

Share the Knowledge!!

Whistle Stop Dayton MID-CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

June 4 - 7, 2026
DAYTON, OHIO



**Layout Tours and Op Sessions
Model Contest,/Celebration, Displays,
Clinics, Self-Guided Tours, Consignment Sales & Banquet**

**Clinics
Held in
Three
Rooms**

Clinics Morning, Afternoon and Evening

Topics include: Prototype and Models that Followed,
Growing Up with the V & O plus Dayton & Troy Electric Railroad

Model Contests/Celebration:

Models Judged by AP

Company Store: Will be offering Convention Cars

Self-Guided Local Attractions:

Rail Tours, Non-rail Activities, including area Museums and Historical sites

Layout Tours & OP Sessions: Self Guided Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Evening Displays: T-Trak

Consignment Sales: Sell your excess items

Bauquet Speake: Otto M. Vondrak

Clinic Topic

The Impact of Allen McClelland's
Virginia & Ohio

Banquet Topic:

90 Years of the RMC History



**Layout Tours
and Op
Sessions
Self Guided
Tours
Friday,
Saturday and
Sunday**

For More Information and Reservations

Scan
QR
Code



Host Hotel - Marriott University of Dayton

Eighth Annual NMRA Division 6

Train Show

Cambridge Ohio

Sunday

October 25, 2026

10am to 3pm

Pritchard Laughlin Center
7033 Glenn Hwy
Cambridge OH 43725

Easy Access from I-70 and I-77

OPERATING
MODEL TRAINS

HANDICAP ACCESS

ALL SCALES

ACCESSORIES

SCENERY

HOBBY TOOLS & SUPPLIES



NMRA
● ● ● ●
BUCKEYE DIVISION

Check out our website for a listing for more information:

<https://www.nmrabuckeyedivision.org/train-show>

Vendors Contact Greg - (740) 607-3223 - nmrabuckeyedivision@gmail.com