

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

Almost turkey day, and Santa is busy polishing up his sleigh for the annual fan trip around the world on the 24th. We had a great meeting in Mt. Vernon, hosted by the *Kokosing Model Railroad Club* at the *Woodyard Opera House*. A great big THANK YOU to the club for their efforts. Darrell Logan moderated the program discussion. Lots of participants shared scenery techniques with the group. Thanks, Darrell, for a great job. After the meeting, we toured two great layouts, the *Kokosing Club* and Michael Percy's home. Thanks for sharing your wonderful model railroads.

There will not be a regular Program Meeting in December. We will have our first annual *Christmas Holiday Party*. City Barbecue will cater a dinner with plenty of pulled pork and brisket, along with all the fixings. Iced tea, coffee, and water will be provided. The party will be on Saturday, December 13th. Dinner will be served at 7 pm. The party will be held at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 South Roys Ave., on the lower level. An elevator is available for those who need one. Please let us know if this will be required when you make your reservation. The church is located just off Sullivant Ave, west of the Hilltop Library. The cost is \$25 per person. Reservations can be made with Carter Jastram with a deadline of December 1st. There will be a Bring and Brag opportunity on bridges and trestles. If you don't want to bring a model, send a photo to Mike Wolf, and we will project them on the screen for everyone to see.

11 December (*Thursday*) Business Meeting on Zoom

13 December (Saturday)
St. Mary Magdalene Church
473 South Roys Ave., lower level
Columbus

6:00: Church opens

7:00: Dinner

Bring-N-Brag: Bridge, Trestle

White Elephant Raffle

Social Time

Super's Signal Deadline 18 December

There will be a White Elephant Raffle. If you want to participate, a suggested value of \$20 or less. Please mark gifts for ladies or men. If you have any questions, call Dick Briggs at 64-493-8988.

See you at the Holiday Party

Dick Briggs, MMR®



DIVISION 6 OFFICERS

Superintendent

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Matt Goodman:

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Carter Jastram:

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Mark Krueger,

Ken McDonough,

Donald Wilke:

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

14 November 2025

Matt Goodman, Clerk

Note:

The Business Meetings are scheduled for the Thursday before our Program Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. See the division website timetable for the exact date. Any member may attend the Business Meeting. Contact Clerk Matt Goodman for the Zoom link if you'd like to attend.

Call to order:

The Division 6 Meeting was called to order by Dick Briggs, Division 6 Superintendent, at 7:02 p.m.

Division 6 Officers Present:

Dick Briggs®: Superintendent

Mark Krueger: Director

Ken McDonough: Director, Membership

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

Division 6 Chairs Present:

Butch Sage: Elections

Scott Brown: Raffle

Absent:

Michael Wolf®: Asst. Superintendent, Webmaster

Matt Goodman: Clerk, Media

Carter Jastram: Paymaster

Jim Kehn®: Achievement Program

Michael Percy: Nominations

Greg Short: Company Store, Train Show

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Reports:

Clerk's Report: Matt Goodman

Absent, no report given.

Paymaster's Report: Carter Jastram

Carter's report was submitted via email. Following the account readout, the group discussed the outcomes of the Train Show and Convention. They noted that the Train Show made \$2,955, which, while up from previous years, was considered a significant return for the amount of work. The convention was less successful, making only \$2,000 (compared to the more typ-

ical \$10,000). Part of this outcome was due to confusion with the hotel costs and unexpected charges.

Communications

***Super's Signal Report:* Don Wilke**

The next deadline for the *Signal* is Thursday, November 20.

Membership Report: Ken McDonough

We have 139 current members with four renewals, and seven members are 60 days past due at the end of October. Ken raised concerns about members having difficulty renewing their memberships due to website issues. Don noted that National is transitioning to an automatic renewal system, which may be a factor.

Ken requested that Division 6 leaders mention these renewal difficulties at the Region meetings. He has reached out to Paul Novak to obtain a contact person at National to pass along his feedback. He has received no response from his previous contact, Susan Straub.

Discussion: The group discussed membership trends and challenges. The decline in membership may be linked to geographical factors and the association's value proposition. The discussion highlighted the need to reevaluate membership retention strategies, with Ken, Mike Wolf, and Bruce McDonald assessing current approaches. Dick will propose at the January MCR Region Board Meeting to redirect \$2 per-member funds from National back to the divisions to fund membership programming

The group also touched on the potential to attract new members through initiatives such as posting posters at the *Train Station Hobby Store*, though this needs to be discussed with ownership for buy-in. Mark will take a swing at creating a QR code for a poster that lists upcoming Buckeye Division events.

The group noted that only a few new members joined the NMRA as a result of the 6-month RailPass membership promotion for the *Buckeye Express Convention*. We will continue promoting RailPass memberships at train shows.

Don highlighted the need to improve communication with members who do not attend meetings and mentioned Gordy's plan to increase NMRA visibility worldwide. Harry suggested reaching out to local media and libraries to raise awareness about meet-

ings and model railroading activities, with Upper Arlington library identified as a potential venue for future events. The group acknowledged the absence of a dedicated communications person and discussed the need to consider hiring one to handle such initiatives.

If members have questions about their membership status, contact Ken. See the division website contact page for details.

Old Business

Company Store, Raffle: Scott Brown

Scott reported 31 Tank Car kits remain, including 29 with both decal sets and two with *Buckeye Fuel Oil* decals only. There is a pending order from an individual in Oregon requesting three kits; Carter will handle payments, and Scott will manage shipping.

The team discussed advertising the kits in the January issue of *Kingpin* magazine.

New Business

Program: Mike Wolf via email

Group Discussion: Scott planned to arrange for ten Tank Car kits for the November meeting in his absence. Ken will help coordinate the distribution of participation raffle tickets if Bruce McDonald is unavailable. Don requested that someone take pictures of the AP award presentations at the next meeting.

The group also discussed a survey on operations sessions and the use of a reservation system for events. Ken praised the efficient RSVP process for the NMRA Buckeye Division's Christmas Party.

The group also addressed the need to start the January meeting at the *Johnstown Library* earlier than usual because of its 3 PM closing time. Finally, they discussed the possibility of organizing a make-and-take project at the Marion meeting location, with Mike requesting a committee to brainstorm suitable project ideas.

Nominating Committee: Michael Percy

No report given.

Good of the Order, Other Business

Modular AP Certificate:

There was a brief discussion about a possible Modular AP Certificate being developed by the National AP Chairman.

New NMRA Logo: Don Wilke

Don presented the new logo designs for the region and division, with plans to adopt the Buckeye Division name in place of Division 6. There will be new logos for all regions and divisions of the NMRA to unify. Don noted that the division logos must meet the new NMRA standards. Don shared that he has several articles and guidelines to follow for the logo changes, including Vision 2035 and timelines for regions and divisions. He also mentioned that Na-

tional is working on a new logo design with artwork to be provided by April next year. The group agreed that the new division logo, which will stack the national logo at the top, the division name in the middle, and the region at the bottom, is a positive change. See page 10.

Adjournment

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

November Program Meeting in Mt. Vernon, November 15

Matt Goodman, Clerk

At the November meeting in the *Mt Vernon Opera House* (a fantastic venue), Dick Briggs presented two awards:

- George Stringer, Merit Award for Scenery.
- Carter Jastram, Chief Dispatcher Achievement Award

We extend our congratulations to both for their perseverance, effort, and quality work! If other members are interested in learning more about the program, contact these two: Jim Kehn, MMR®, or Dick Briggs, MMR®.

Dick Briggs thanked the *Kokosing Valley Model Railroad Club* for securing the meeting venue and covering the cost. The club, specifically club member Rob Hilburn's wife, Kim, also provided refresh-

ments, including coffee, cookies, fruits, and vegetables, which were much appreciated by those in attendance. Dick further recognized the club's turnout at this meeting.

Michael Percy, nominations chair, announced that elections are upcoming for all officer positions (Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Clerk, Paymaster), and that you should contact him if you are interested in running. He noted that the Superintendent position will be vacant, so a volunteer is needed.

Thanks to Darrell Logan for facilitating the discussion on scenery. There was strong engagement from many members present, with questions, thoughts, and ideas.

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 Archive 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]

DIVISION 6 OFFICIAL TIMETABLE

(Valid 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026)

Date	Meeting	Discussion Topic	Bring 'n Brag	Layout Open House(s)	Location
Nov 13 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Nov 15 (Sat)	Program	Scenery	Non-Revenue/MOW	Kokosing Club / Percy	Woodward Opera House, Mt Vernon
Nov 20 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Dec 11 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Dec 13 (Sat)	Social	Hoilday Party	Bridge / Trestle	White Elephant Gift Exchange	St Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus
Dec 18 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
2026					
Jan 15 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Jan 17 (Sat)	Program	Painting Cars and Structures	Open Car w/Load	Walsh /Sage	Johnstown Library
Jan 22 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Feb 19 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Feb 21 (Sat)	Program	AP/Building a Freight Car Fleet	Steam Loco	Argo/Matheny (T)	Hilliard Library (T)
Feb 26 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Mar 19 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Mar 22 (Sun)	Program	Weathering cars & locos	Weathered Car or Loco	CORMAC (T)/Richter (T)	Upper Arlington Library (T)
Mar 26 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Apr 16 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Apr 18 (Sat)	Program	Building cars	Caboose	Severson (T)	Newark Library (T)
Apr 23 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
May 14 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
May 16 (Sat)	Program	DCC - systems & decoders	Non-steam Loco	Zanesville Club (T)	Zanesville (T)
May 21 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			
Jun 4-7	Convention	MCR - Dayton		Whistle Stop Dayton 2026	Dayton
Jun 18 (Thu)	Business				Zoom
Jun 20 (Sat)	Program	Clinics/Annual Meeting	Favorite Train	Marion Club (T)	Marion
Jun 25 (Thu)		Super's Signal Cutoff			

Dates and locations for the Jan and Feb Program meetings have changed



OPERATION WEEKEND Survey Results

By Mike Wolf, MMR®

The primary purpose of the survey was to enhance the OPs Weekend experience for the future. Here's a summary and reply to several of the comments.

Thanks to the thirty-two members who took part in our survey to enhance our Ops Weekend. Twenty-eight of the 32 respondents indicated that they would like to participate next time. Additionally, many of the comments reflected the great time and fellowship had by those who participated, and the hope that we would have another event.

Approximately two-thirds of the respondents had a conflict on Saturday and one-half had a conflict on Sunday. While it fit into the schedule nicely (no meeting in October due to the Train Show), clearly, October is a busy time of year for many.

Three respondents indicated they felt they were too inexperienced to participate. That couldn't be further from the truth. All of the layout owners can accommodate new folks, and it was one of the main goals of the event. Please sign up next time.

There were several comments about the amount of time signups were available. This is a two-edged sword for an event like this. On one hand, the layout owners' schedules change, and it is much more difficult to move participants around once they are signed up. Conversely, many like to mark their calendars as soon as possible to prevent conflicts with non-model railroad events. Additionally, one of the layouts was a question mark until just before the release of the slots. I published a tentative schedule on

the website at least 2-3 months in advance, and the final slots remained pretty much as planned. I will work to improve communication in the future.

While there were some first-time user issues with the Operating Sessions website, from my perspective, the process worked very well. Feedback from the layout owners was also positive. I added one additional instructional step to the division's webpage before retiring it for next time to clarify one of the common areas of confusion.

Lastly, there was a suggestion to open the sessions up to a larger crowd (i.e. Division 6 the first week of signup and then to anyone interested). The primary objectives of the weekend are to educate Division 6 members on operations, make newcomers feel comfortable with operations, and foster fellowship among division members. Expanding to include a wider audience is counterproductive to those goals. Most of the ops layouts in the division can adjust to a smaller number of operators (and/or compensate by inviting some of their "regulars" if required). Additionally, several of the layout owners are not interested in becoming a regional or country-wide event like the SouthWest Ohio OPERATION S (SWOOPS) event hosted in the Cincinnati/Dayton area every other year.

Conversations have begun with the layout owners about hosting an event in the spring of 2026. Watch for additional information as those plans solidify.

Don't Just Belong, Participate!!

Share the Knowledge!!

Mt. Vernon Program Meeting

Photos by Matt Goodman



Division 1, North Central Region, NMRA

Marshall Stull

I would like to extend a special invitation to the Mini Bunch to attend our Spring Modelers Meet in Sylvania, OH, on April 18, 2026, (<https://smm.ncrnmra.org/>).

It's not a swap meet, it's more like an RPM or Narrow Gauge meet, but less focused on a specific part of the hobby. We encourage everyone to bring models to share. Along with clinics, we will also have operations and layout tours on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon for those who need to drive home.

Small layouts are welcome, but we need to know the sizes in advance so we can ensure that the required space is set aside.

I hope you and the gang will attend!

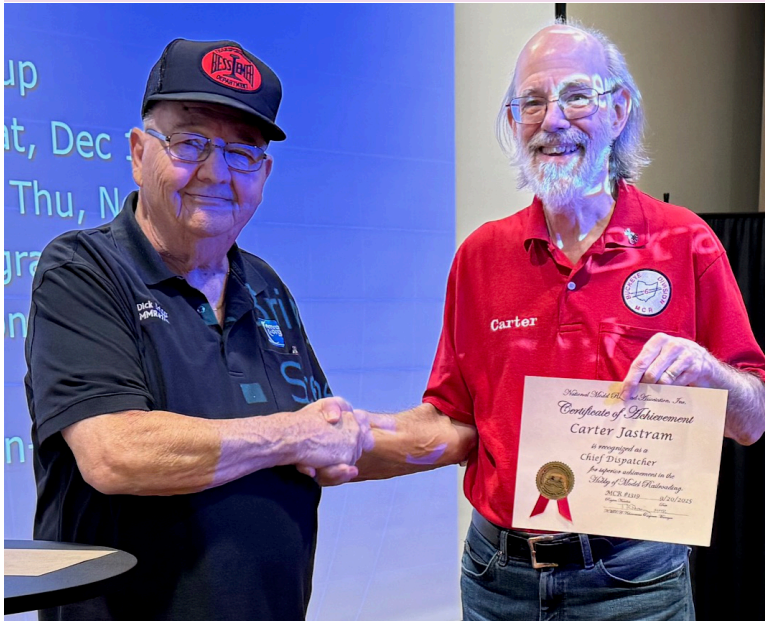
Thanks!

Marshall Stull, smallmr.com

Note this is the same day as the Newark meeting.

Achievement Program

Photos by Matt Goodman



Carter Jastram receives his Chief Dispatcher Achievement Award from Superintendent Dick Briggs



George Stringer receives his Merit Award for Scenery from Superintendent Dick Briggs



Ohio's Corridor ID Status

The Midwest Connect

The Midwest Connect service development is part of the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor ID Program.

It would take passengers from Chicago through Fort Wayne and Columbus to Pittsburgh. [H-A-D on the map]

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission announced that, along with Fort Wayne, Indiana, and several Ohio cities, it paid \$650,000 and submitted it to the Federal Railroad Administration for the Midwest Connect.

The money moves the Midwest Connect rail line out of a more conceptual phase and towards an actual study, should the federal government move forward.

MORPC's Executive Director William Murdock said that if the federal government moves forward, it would pay 90% of the cost to study the line.

"Whether it's Columbus, or you're looking at communities like Lima or Marysville. They are all really anxious and excited at the possibility of adding passenger rail along that line," Murdock said.

"Re-establishing this four-state corridor would invest in both urban and rural communities, enhance connectivity, and create thousands of full-time jobs while strengthening the region's service, manufacturing, and tourism industries," Dublin Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes said.

Murdock said this next step is critical to answering some key questions people may have about the line.

"How fast will the service be? Where will it stop, and where will the stations be? How will it interact with freight rail? How often will the services be? That plan will dive into those details," Murdock said.

Corridor ID Program

The Corridor ID Program, including the Midwest Connect, faces a potential hurdle after the change in presidential administrations from President Joe Biden to President Donald Trump. President Biden favored passenger rail, while President Trump canceled and delayed key projects across the country.

3C+D corridor

Midwest Connect isn't the only project being considered for Ohio. The Ohio Rail Development Commission is spearheading an effort to create a line connecting Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati, the 3C+D corridor. [K-A-F on the map]

"I think we're both, no pun intended, we're on paral-



lel tracks to ensure these projects move forward to that next step of the processes," Murdock said.

Amtrak's Cardinal

Another plan would be to increase Amtrak's Cardinal service from three days a week to daily. The Cardinal travels from New York to Chicago via Washington, DC, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. Sponsored by AMTRAK. [E-F-G on the map]

Comments

"It's really a project that could connect people to jobs. It's about economic development, and that gives us confidence to keep moving forward," Murdock said.

Murdock pointed out that the Ohio Rail Development Commission gave the green light to explore passenger rail lines further. He said the FRA recently released a new call for grant applications totaling more than \$5 billion for passenger rail implementation under the Trump administration.

However, the Ohio General Assembly voted earlier this year to eliminate a key position on the ORDC for passenger rail.

Cost Comparison

We've heard it for years: the 3C+D corridor costs too much

In Ohio, combined state and Federal highway spending works out to \$715 per driver every year. Yes, some of that comes from gas taxes that drivers pay. But even after you take that into account, every

Ohio highway driver enjoys an annual subsidy of \$250 per year.

3C+D Corridor

If we get the 3C+D corridor going, the Rail Passengers Association modeling suggests the annual subsidy per rail passenger could be about \$25. You might spend \$250 to launch it initially, but the on-going costs would be pretty minimal thereafter. Meanwhile, each of those rail passengers should contribute about \$250 each year to Ohio's economy. They'll eat in restaurants, they'll stay in hotels and Airbnbs, go to sporting events, and they'll buy things. When they do that, not only do they help pay the staff, but they also spur business-to-business transactions. Restaurants buy wholesale food. Hotels replacing linens. Everyone pays sales taxes along the way. And of course, supporting hundreds of jobs, both directly and indirectly.

Detroit-Toledo-Cleveland Corridor

That's not the only corridor worth a serious look. The Rail Passengers Association thinks three trains a day between Cleveland and Detroit, via Toledo, [J-K on the map] would yield similar economic returns.

Remember, it's not about whether Amtrak (or some other state-supported operator) makes a profit, but instead it's about where the profit goes. Amtrak is a taxpayer-supported government entity. No law or regulation anywhere requires it to make a profit. And in the case of rail investment, the profit goes to the taxpaying communities served, generating many multiples of return by boosting the local economies and generating prosperity.

Columbus Dispatch, All About Ohio

New NMRA Vision

In a recent interview, NMRA President Gordy Robinson indicated that the NMRA needs to have a more cohesive labeling system. For example, if you went to the Cincinnati Train Show, the Dayton Train Show, and our Train Show, the public might not realize they were all under the same NMRA umbrella.



One aspect of Gordy's Vision 2035 is to correct this problem by changing the region and division logos to incorporate the new NMRA Logo. Vision 2025 standardizes the NMRA logo with four color options for the logo and associated background. The following shows the four color options for the NMRA logo and associated background. Each logo and background is to be used together. In some cases, you can use the logo alone without a background if it's on a white background.



Vision 2035 can be found at:

https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/marketing/2025_rebranding/NMRA_Vision2035_WorkPlan2026.pdf

The standards continue at the regional and division levels as well. The region and division logos use the same color options, and I have provided one of the color options for both the Mid Central Region and the Buckeye Division.



Mike Wolf has added the new NMRA logo to the bottom of the division's website.



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

Banquet 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