



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DIVISION SIX OF THE  
NORTH CENTRAL REGION  
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL  
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

## ON THE RAILS...

### APRIL 2010

It's April? Really? Geez, just where did March go to? Seemed to fly by! Well, Spring IS finally here and hopefully that means we'll still have time for model railroading. Why? Because with good weather comes many other activities vying for our free time. I hope model railroading is still on your schedule of activities. While some Divisions take a summer break from meetings, I'm glad that we do not. Model railroading is a fulltime hobby and a summer absence would do us all harm, in my opinion. So I hope to continue to see YOU all spring and summer long. We do have a convention to run soon enough too! Now, here's the rest of your Div 6 news-

### TOOL TIME

Div 6 member Bill Deeter gives us a look at some interesting and useful tools - ruler, stainless steel with cork backing - will not move when pressing down for cutting- available at office stores; cutting board with ceiling tile for backing and metal square, self made; 1" square tubing with corner cut off- for clamping plastic together to glue in corner (had some to give out for FREE).

### DIV 6 MEETINGS

Our Division 6 meetings are on the **THIRD** Friday of each month and our next Division 6 meeting will be on **FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010**. The meeting will be held at the Civic Center Senior Center in Livonia, at 5 Mile and Farmington Roads. The meeting is from 7:30pm until 10pm.

### MODELING INFO W/LARRY

We're launching another new feature for the Div meetings and newsletter. Larry Williams has a unique ability to have some very interesting and useful solutions to everyday modeling problems. So in association with your regular monthly questions and tips, here are **LARRY'S TIPS!** At the last meeting, Larry talked about different glues to use in modeling; a glue bottle holder to keep from tipping glue bottles on your workbench; use jewelers pliers for coupler hose adjustments; holder for small parts for painting- solid metal block, piano wire with alligator clip; Great stuff you really need to see!

Another tip at the last meeting came from Joe Bliss on a source for LEDs for use in signal heads. Look up [www.led-switch.com](http://www.led-switch.com)

And it was mentioned that Great Lakes Gypsum has 50 lbs of molding plaster for \$15.

We look forward to more questions, tips next month!

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had one new member at the last meeting. Welcome to Bill Schafer who models in Sn3 scale. To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

### RAILROAD HISTORY

Norm did not have a chance for a History lesson this past month. Looking forward to another lesson next month.

### DIV 6 WEBSITE

The new Div 6 website is up. Check it out at- [www.div6-ncr-nmra.com](http://www.div6-ncr-nmra.com)

## SHOW AND TELL

The subject for the last meeting was operational RR structures - interlocking, signal towers, crossing sheds etc. Items displayed were- Large crossing sign for live steam layout; laser cut switch tower; yard light tower O scale; interlock tower; Atlas signal tower; elevated gate tower; crossing shanty scratch built; brass tower kit; N scale tower; Bachman signal bridge; scratch built MT PRR tower O scale; color position signal light; elevated crossing shed; O scale Atlas switch tower; employee timetable; pictures of Delray tower; operational paperwork-engineer's wallet - rule book/time table 1942; signal mast; dispatch tower; communication tower; yard office scratch built; built in 1984 PRR tower wood model; elevated crossing tower - atlas kits bashed together for small tower and an AHM tower. Current projects were- an S scale conv car; 1/24 scale foamcore basement layout for planning; mock-up of a mine tibble & hoist house; bunch of parts from swap meet includes powered engine for \$6; car cards for layout ops; Westerfield gon kit; Bachman crane & tender undec; fastrak double cross-over; frame w/picture and flashing crossing signal and DPM kit build. We did have some members donate to the caboose. Thanks to those that did.

**NEXT MEETING-** maintenance of way cars/equipment

## CONGRATULATIONS

Larry Wolohon as the Region Achievement Director presented an achievement award, A Certificate of Achievement - Scenery, to Dick Harden!

## PRODUCT REVIEW

We did not have any product reviews this month. If you have an item to review, see Glenn before the meeting starts.

## DIV 6 MISC NEWS

Nankin Hobby is back in the Div 6 news - and unfortunately due to not so good news. Their Farmington location caught fire and burned on Friday, March 5th. However, news is that they will rebuild and hope to be back up in 2-3 months!

Bill Deeter brought two boxes of very thin wood veneer pieces! And they were FREE! Thanks Bill!

Congratulations to Asst. Super. Bill Rubarth on his up-coming retirement.

Projector project- Glenn researched and found one that has dvd player and memory stick inputs! Running approx \$850. All voted to BUY - may have for next meeting!

## DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Superintendent-** Glenn Joppich  
734-464-6004 steambigot@yahoo.com  
**Asst. Superintendent-** Bill Rubarth  
734-522-5876 wrubarth@twmi.rr.com  
**Secretary-** Howard Andrews  
734-728-4697 hwandrews@wowway.com  
**Treasurer-** Larry Wolohon  
734-454-4816  
larrywolohon@comcast.net

### OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF

Newsletter- Barry Hensel  
734-397-5182 Barry76Lt@wowway.com  
Clinics- Howard Andrews  
734-728-4697 hwandrews@wowway.com  
Layout Tours- Dick Harden  
248-889-2228 Richhard01@comcast.net  
History- Norm Logan  
248-348-2473 nlogan114@wowway.com  
Webmaster- Ed Beamish  
734-266-2301 nedbeam@provide.net  
Div 6 Fall Show- Dick Harden  
248-889-2228 Richhard01@comcast.net  
Meeting Coffee- Walt Plentis  
248-535-8063 wwp4343@comcast.net

### LARRY'S TROPHIES-ENGRAVING-SIGNS

awards-labels-nametags-plaques-decals  
buttons-mouse pads-coffee mugs  
key chains-luggage tags-tshirts

**734-634-1226**

***larrystrophy@sbcglobal.net***

## CLINIC

This months clinic was by Norm Logan. His subject- Operations for Newbies! Many modelers are now embracing layout operations, even before their layouts are complete. These can be great fun, but must also follow a few simple rules. These rules make the evening "Ops Session" enjoyable for the layout owner and operators! Some of those rules are- never handle equipment as details and paint can be ruined; re-rail cars by the wheels only; push stalled locos by the coupler only; learn how the power system operates; pay attention to instructions and always ASK if you do not know! There might have been a few more too. Great information for us all to keep in mind when we operate, either for the first time or many. Thanks Norm - Great clinic.

If you are willing to do a clinic, please, e-mail or call or see Howard at the meetings and share your thoughts.

**NEXT MEETING-** Joe Bliss on DCC decoders installation updates

## WHO WE ARE

We are Division 6 of the North Central Region (NCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). What that means is, the NMRA is the model railroad association for the country (and even world). The country is divided into REGIONS, which are one or more states. Our Region, the North Central Region (NCR), is all of Michigan and the northern part of Ohio and Indiana. Each Region is then divided into DIVISIONS, which are one or more counties. Division 6 is primarily Wayne County, but we have many members from western Oakland County and we aren't strict on membership and boundaries. All total, there are about 8 Divisions in our Region.

## NCX - NCR-DIV 6 2010 CONV

The **North Central Express** dates are **October 21-24, 2010!**

We're rolling along! Marty reports that registrations are coming in, we're up to 28 so far! Our promotion DVD has been completed and everyone at the Div meeting got a look. Several positive comments! Walt is starting to get volunteers for NCX so please make sure you get him your name and contact info. While we're not assigning specific jobs just yet, it won't be long before we do. Howard has a great clinics schedule and trying to get 100% commitments from those scheduled so far. Then we'll fill any holes. We have 24 clinic hours scheduled and may add a few more. Dick has 24-28 layouts confirmed and 5-10 are still pending or being considered. Please get your paperwork in to Dick ASAP if you have been approached to have your layout open. The deadline is May 1. Dou is doing the prototype tours and is planning personal visits in the next month and have them scheduled by mid summer. We are looking to have 3-4 tours for Friday during the day. Norm has promotions and as mentioned the DVD is complete and GREAT! He will also start doing news articles and event calendar submissions. Besides sending out the DVD's, Barry is also visiting most div meetings in NCR for NCX promotion. We also got the NCX flyer on back of GL Live Steamers newsletter - thanks! Ed has the NCX website up and running! It's great and informative! Layouts are being added as they are confirmed, so check back often. NCX is ONLY 7 months away!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

We are happy to place classified ads for Div 6 members. Donations to the Div of \$2 per ad is requested! And don't forget our "Surplus Table" at every meeting where you can bring in items for sale.

## LAYOUT TOURS

We're "back on track" for some layout touts for the coming month of April. John Wissenger & Dan Kemf will be open on Sunday, April 25 from 1:30pm-4:30pm. See the map for directions. Thinking of hosting a layout tour? Give Dick a call or email to have your layout on tour!  
**NEXT TOURS-** April 25<sup>th</sup>- 1:30-4:30  
John Wissenger & Dan Kemf

## BEST WISHES TO JOHN

A week ago Thursday, John Grubb underwent surgery at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor to have a heart valve repaired. Unfortunately as a result of the surgery, John suffered an apparent stroke. John's recovery progress has been remarkable. He has regained much of the use of his left leg and he can even walk a few steps. However he still can't move his left arm and the vision offset remains. One good thing is that his speech has not been affected. Through it all he has remained in very good spirits, although he does tire very easily. The best news is that his doctors say his chances of full recovery are excellent! He is now out of intensive care and has been moved to the hospital's physical therapy unit. In the meantime, your thoughts and prayers would be very much appreciated by John and his family. Also cards would be good. Send them to his home address, which is:  
3647 Greenook Ann Arbor, MI 48103

## NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

Saturday, May 1 - National Train Day for SE Michigan & NW Ohio  
Toledo Amtrak Station Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Plaza 415 Emerald Ave Toledo, OH  
Times- opening ceremony 9:30am  
9:30am-4pm Admission Fees- FREE  
Amtrak & model Trains, Music, food, rail art, vendor booths, kid's activities, Informational displays  
Info- [traindaytoledo@aol.com](mailto:traindaytoledo@aol.com)  
419-536-0993 [www.tmacog.org](http://www.tmacog.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, April 3-** Train Show/Sale Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds Lake St Kalamazoo, MI 10am-3pm \$5  
Info- Lorraine 269-372-6407  
<http://KMRHS.org>

**Sat/Sunday, April 17-18-** Pittsburgh Model RR Jamboree Sewall Center, Robert Morris University 6001 University Blvd Pittsburgh, PA 15108  
8am-8pm \$22 Non-members- \$32  
Add \$5 after April 1st. Banquet \$28  
**Info-** 412-276-6006  
<http://keystonedivision.org>

**Fri-Saturday, April 16-17-** 2010 Great Lakes Model RR Symposium South Bend Firefighters Association 4025 Lincoln Way West South Bend, IN 574-220-4817

**Saturday, April 10 -** Bucyrus Model RR Assoc. Train Show & Swap Meet Crawford County Fairgrounds Whetstone St. Bucyrus, OH 44820  
10am-4pm Adults \$4, 12/Under FREE  
David E. Moore, Pres. 419-462-5035

**Sunday, April 11 -** T T O S - Wolverine Div Toy Train Show & Sale United Food & Commerical Workers Hall 876 Horace Brown Dr Madison Hgts, MI 48071 10am-2pm  
everyone \$3 Bob Burgee 586-752-1839

**Sunday, April 25 -** Toledo's Spring Model Train & Fun Show Lucas Co Rec Center 2901 Key St. Maumee, OH 43537 11am-4pm  
\$5, under 12 free, early-bird \$8  
Al-Yvonne Mitchell 517-264-5704

**Thursday-Sunday, April 29-May 2 -** New York Central System Historical Society Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency Dearborn \$129 \$154 after March 25 Website [www.nyc2010mtg.org](http://www.nyc2010mtg.org)

**Friday-Saturday, April 30-May 1 -** NC OHIO - SE MICHIGAN S-GAUGERS SPRING "S" SPREE 2010 Ford Community & Performing Arts Center 15801 Michigan Ave Dearborn, MI Fri. 10am-9pm., Sat. 9am-3pm  
\$20 (\$30 after 3/1/10) per FAMILY; includes admission to NYC Hist Soc convention at Hyatt Regency  
Jerry Poniatowski: 734-721-0772  
[poniaj@wowway.com](mailto:poniaj@wowway.com)  
[http://www.smsgtrains.org/2010\\_spre.html](http://www.smsgtrains.org/2010_spre.html)

NORTH TERRITORIAL RD

REILLY DR



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**DIV 6 LAYOUT TOUR**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2010**  
**1:30pm - 4:30pm**

John Wissinger  
6700 Reilly Drive  
Gregory (Ann Arbor area), MI 48137  
734-433-1658

Dan Kempf  
4010 Loch Alpine Dr. W.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-426-2402