



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

ON THE RAILS...

DECEMBER 2008

WOW... sitting here AT the Div 6 meeting, waiting for it to start, and I'm writing the newsletter.. cool! Nothing like non-wasted time! This newsletter will be done and mailed a bit early, so that some of the news in here reaches you in time to take advantage of that info. My apologies to Howard for rushing him!

The Fall Show & Workshop is ONE week away and it was looking a bit iffy. More details inside the newsletter. All in all, I think we'll be OK. I certainly hope so!

There is a lot going on in the world and hopefully, you and your family are not affected, or as little as possible. Lastly, here's wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!! Now, here's the rest of your Div 6 news-

NCR NEWS

Grants available from the NCR for divisions. We will put in for a nice banner and for a movie screen for our meeting room. And a reminder that if you have a HotBox Pike Ad, your payment for 2009 is due soon. Only \$15 for 3 years! If you don't have a Pike Ad and would like to purchase one- just see/call the editor, Barry Hensel.

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, DEC 19, 2008**. 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.

SHOW AND TELL

Subject was auto carrier, box car, flats, racks... any type of railroad car that is/was used in carrying auto's. Shown were a TOFC with auto parts(?); DT&I 50' box car; Lionel autorack; WM flats with emergency vehicles; Walthers 50' outside braced box; Colo-Sou narrow gauge box; LifeLike autorack; Athearn box with racks and cars; Athearn autorack; 50' dbbl door auto box; PRR flat with cars in N scale; NKP products round top box car; RDG autorack; MiSou autorack w/details; Accurail Wabash 2 level autorack; LaBelle 0 scale end door box; Rio Grande flat car; Ford dbbl door box; Walthers flat car w/auto transport trailer; AHM coil gon with full length hoods; Tyco auto rack; Dbbl dr box DTS line; LifeLike 50' Erie box; C&NW 50' box; Checker Motors decaled auto parts boxcar; Westerfield GN auto box; proto Erie auto box; proto NYC box 50'. A good selection of items shown! **CURRENT PROJECTS** shown included a DPM building kit in progress; JL Inv gas station kit; roof of building- uses doctor tape for roof paper; piece of layout- Styrofoam that lifts out; Kato engines SD40's w/DCC. We also thank those who donated to the caboosel! **NEXT MEETING-** pictures of your layout or anyone else's layout, **MUST** be model photos - no proto-type photos!

DIV 6 WEBSITE

The new Div 6 website is up and being updated often. Check it out at- www.div6-ncr-nmra.com Newsletters are now posted on the website and the HotBox issues too.

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248-535-8063 wwp4343@sbcglobal.net

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.

MODELING INFORMATION

We did have a couple of tips at the meeting-

** Larry Williams told us about "Super Bore", a new drill set made by Rigid tools. The deal on these is that they go through just about anything and do so MUCH easier than any other drill bits he has ever seen. Drill bit set is approx. \$20

** Barry Hensel showed us "Stretch Magic", a nylon string that stretches and is cheap at \$2.50 for 32 feet. It's good for use as telephone wires on your layout! Comes in black and other colors, 0.5mm diameter. You can get this at craft stores in the beading or jewelry section.

Thanks for your questions, tips and answers! We look forward to more questions, tips next month!

RAILROAD HISTORY

History "Prof" Norm had a lesson for the evening- Early Auto Cars- from Larry Smith MMR (Walthers book on auto industry) Some of the highlights are- in 1894- first "auto" cars with end doors for loading. PRR- NYC served every auto maker; real auto cars started in 1904, with dbbl doors specially for autos; 40' cars were standard on eastern RR's; western rr's went to 50' auto cars! In the 1920's- auto cars got taller to accommodate more loading, up to 15'. PRR pushed for larger cars with rounded tops for clearance issues. Other RR's soon followed. 1960's were first bi and tri level autorack cars. COOL- a great story and fit so well with our show & tell!! Looking forward to another lesson next month.

NCR-DIV 6 '10 CONV- NCE

The **North Central Express** is tentatively scheduled for October 16-18, 2009. Nothing new, but we still have to get that meeting together to look over the hotel info. Hoping we'll have that completed by the next Div 6 meeting.

FALL WORKSHOP & SHOW

THANKS to Norm... some great press coverage of our event before the event! Livonia Observer, Farmington Gazette; MR, Free Press! This should bring out MORE people. Of course, that presents a problem, as we are FAR SHORT of people to do displays! We had approx 42 people last year. We ONLY have 27 people as of meeting!! OUCH!! And out of that, only 17 display tables!! We do have several layouts! We even need a few basic people to do door work, even though we are not selling tickets. Doug put forth a last ditch pitch. Then Norm also put forth a good pitch too. I do believe we did get a few more displays sign-up by the end of the meeting. We will take any LAST MINUTE displays too! Just show-up and we'll find space for you! We'll have a full report next month.

LAYOUT TOURS

THANKS to John Wissinger and Dan Kempf for hosting layout tours in November. There was a slight mistake in the maps from the last newsletter- one street name wrong- sorry! Corrected maps were at the meeting. And here's one of those last minute reminders for this quick newsletter- the annual layout tour of Barry Hensel's Reading Lines and Marty LaForte's Burlington Northern will be on Sunday, Dec 7 from 12 noon to 5pm. Maps for the tours are later in this newsletter.

Thinking of hosting a layout tour? Give Dick a call or email if you would like to have your layout on a tour! Need some for January!

NEXT TOURS- SUNDAY, Dec 7- Barry Hensel and Marty LaForte

DIV 6 MISC NEWS

WOW... as mentioned at the meeting, our former Div 6 Super and now NCR President Jack Watson underwent some heart problems during mid-November. He's doing fine, he had an 80% blockage of one artery and ended-up with a couple of stints! We wish Jack all the best during his recovery!

Best recovery wishes also go out to Marty LaForte, who is on the mend from some foot problems.

Gary Mead reported that the Great Lakes Live Steamers had over 4000 passengers in 14 hours for their annual Halloween run in Southgate! I believe that was a new record for them! WOW!

There is a new TV show on the History Channel on Tuesday night at 10pm. It's called Extreme Trains! I could not find when/if these are repeated, except for Wednesday mornings at 2pm. Get the DVR ready! So far about 2-4 shows have been shown and there are more new shows through the end of the year! The host is a bit "excitable" but most Div 6 members who have seen these say they're good!

CLINIC

Div 6 member/Secretary Howard Andrews gave us a clinic on layout digital photography. "Bits & Bytes" Howard has 40 years experience as a photographer, so he's qualified to talk on this subject! He started right in talking about equipment- Camera- simple point-shoot ones are OK, they're small and cost less, but the downside is no focus control, no close focus and no exposure control. Better camera is a SLR (single lens reflex) camera which has it all but they are heavy and costly. Next, you will need a tripod! These too can be a bit pricey, but if you go cheap, they are simply not as good for the job! Also you need lights- cheap is good- clamp on light fixtures and regular 100w bulbs will do the job! Howard showed a series of pictures of his square foot (for the Div 6 show), showing the different steps to a best picture! He also showed other photos he took and described how they were done. Lastly Howard mentioned a computer program that combines images to get a full focus picture. WOW... great info and presented so very well. We'll have to get Howard to give this at our 2010 convention! GREAT job!

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- ??? This is mostly because we're rushing this issue out to you! I'm sure we'll have something! Howard does a great job!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We did not have any new members at the last meeting. Hopefully, that will change in December, as we promote Div 6 at our own train show this month. To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

PRODUCT REVIEW

If you have an item to review, please see Glenn before the meeting starts.

DIV 9 OUTING INVITE

Division 9 would like to extend an invitation to everyone in the NCR to join us on our holiday outing on Saturday, December 13, 2008. This is a trip for the entire family. We are planning a trip to Huckleberry Railroad/Crossroads Village. We'll be touring the historic village, having dinner, and riding the train as a group. If we get enough people, we are going to try to get a tour of the loco shop.

Admission Prices: 1-19 20-249
Adults (13-59): \$13.00 \$11.05
Seniors (60+): \$12.00 \$10.20
Children (2-12): \$10.00 \$ 8.50
Children (2-under) free

Dinner seatings are every half-hour from 5pm to 8pm Dinner only Price

Adults-\$19.95 Children (2-12)-\$9.50 Children (2 & under)-Free

All prices include sales tax and gratuity. To learn more about the Huckleberry Railroad and Crossroads Village, please see their website:

<http://www.geneseecountyparks.org/crossroadsvillage.htm>

If you have any questions or would like to join us, please contact

Dan Kempf by 12/6/2008 at-

4010 Loch Alpine Dr W

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

dkempf@ameritech.net

Thanks, and I hope some of you can join us! David Simmons, Div 9 Super

<http://ncr-div9.aarailfan.com>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday/Sunday, various Nov-Dec-
SRI 2008 North Pole Express
Owosso, MI Nov 29-30 10am & 4pm;
Dec 6-7 10am & 4pm; Dec 13-14 10am
& 4pm; Dec 20-21 10am & 4pm
Tickets- \$65 adult, 12-under \$35
For more information call 989-725-
9464 or go to - www.mstrp.com

Sunday, Dec 7- St. Mary's Train Show, St. Mary's Athletic Complex
Commerce Rd & Orchard Lake Rd.

Saturday, Dec 13- Toy Train Swap
Holy Family Regional School
Rochester Hills, MI
11am-3:30pm \$3 per person,
\$6 family, early bird 10am, \$10

Saturday, Dec 13- Div 9 Holiday
Outing to Huckleberry RR

Sat-Sunday, Dec 27-28- Train Show
Lucas Co Rec. Center Maumee, OH
11am-4pm Adults \$4 under 12 free
FOTMRR@modelrailstuff.com

Sunday, Jan 18- Train Show & Sale
Athens High School Troy, MI
10am-3pm \$3.00 Adults, 12 & Under
Free when with a paid adult.

flams2@troy.k12.mi.us

Sunday- Feb 2- Train Show & Sale
Saline Middle School Saline, MI
10am-4pm \$6.00 www.a2trainshow.com