



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, FEBRUARY 15, 2007**. 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

Railroad related Christmas gifts was the annual subject for the first meeting after the holidays. Div members showed off these presents- t-shirts, pictures, videos, Hallmark ornaments, books, calendars, ginger-bread loco kit, gift cards, autos, structure kits, rolling stock and locomotives! Of special interest was C&O Stewart A-B-A set, PFM decapod, brass GN caboose, Broadway Sd40-2 Soo Line, and a Micro Mark drill press! Of special-special interest was the Lionel cross-buck bank, that flashes lights and rings a bell when money is deposited! And this thing was close to 4' tall! We also had some "bad" people, who had to bring in a current project to avoid the fines and they showed off computer generated signs, picture of HO layout start (by xxx who is out S-American Flyer/Lionel dude!) and some of the benchwork for the dining room layout! Thanks to everyone for the items they brought and showed off! We also thank those who donated to the caboose!

NEXT MEETING- our clinic for this coming meeting has to do with structures, so THAT is also our subject for show & tell! Please bring in a BUILT structure!

SQUARE FOOT CONTEST

We did this a few years ago and everyone seemed to have fun at it. We will tie this in with our Fall Workshop, where the final judging will be done. More details later, but basically, you build a scene on a square foot, 12" x 12" and it must contain some railroad track. You can build it in any scale, but it must be 12x12 SQUARE in size!

ON THE RAILS...

FEBRUARY 2008

One month down, 11 to go... YIKES is it cold out there lately. I hope you are warm and comfy in your layout room, working on your layout! While it feels like winter just started, we're deep in the middle of it and some very cold weather. Please keep working on those layouts, Div 6 will be hosting the Regional Convention in just 2.5 years! The special Div 6 clinic went very well, full report later. Speaking of reports- later in this issue is a full NCR Regional report from President Tim Fisher. Take a look - good stuff! Also glad to get a message that Div 9 in the Ann Arbor area is back in full swing! With these reports and more, this is an extra large issue of "On The Rails"! Enjoy! Now, here's the rest of your Div 6 news-

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had FIVE new members at the last meeting! And a guest from Div 8 too! WOW! Please welcome Bruce Wolf, Mark Grumblatt, Paul Omilian, Chris Guddeck, Dan Dobrzdewski and Div 8 guest Phil Doolittle. Bruce and Paul both joined the NMRA at the National Convention! To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

DIV 6 FALL WORKSHOP '08!

YES, we're talking about the Fall Workshop - already!! Due to some publication deadlines, we needed to set our date and other minor issues, so that our event can be submitted for calendars. Our date is set for the Sunday after Thanksgiving, which is our "normal" date, Nov 30, 2008. The other issue was admission price. Because we have done well the last few years and our Div 6 bank account is healthy, a proposal was made to have the 2008 Workshop be FREE to the public. This was accepted by everyone! A great way to "give back" and help promote our hobby! And to help the promotion of the event, this year will be our 30th annual event! This "might" be a year off... no one is really sure, but it will sound great in the promotion of the event!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, Feb 16-17- Ann Arbor Train Show, Saline HS
Sunday, Feb 24- 23rd RR Swap Meet American Legn Post 16 Lapeer 10-3
Sunday, March 2- Gratiot Valley Train Show, Macomb Comm College
Sunday, March 9- Toledo Train Show Gladieux Meadows 11am-4pm
Sunday, March 16- Trainorama Extra Redford club, Costick Comm Center 11 Mile Rd Farmington Hills 10-4pm
Sunday, March 16- RR Memorabilia St. Albert in Dearborn Hgts
NO TOYS - REAL stuff 11:30-3:30
Sunday, April 6- Model Train Show & Flea Market at CMU 11am-4pm
Sunday, April 27- Toledo Big Train Show Lucas Co Fairgrds 11am-4pm
Sunday, Sept 27- Train & Toy Swap United Meth Church, Durand 10-4pm
Sunday, Oct 12- Model Train Flea Mrkt Southgate Civic Ctr 10:30-3pm
Sunday, Nov 9- Lansing Train Show MSU Pavilion 10am-4pm
Sunday, Nov 30- Div 6 Workshop & Show, Livonia Senior Ctr 12noon-4pm

NEW DIV 6 WEBSITE

The new Div 6 website address is-
www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

DIV 6 SPECIAL CLINIC

Dick Harden arranged for John Bussard to give us an all day scenery clinic on Saturday, January 26 from 9am-5pm. The clinic included great instruction on rocks, basic scenery, roads and trees. We had close to 30 attend and we even had coffee and donuts there! The clinic went very well and everyone learned and had a great time. We did video tape the day and many took notes. This was something that you simply HAD to be at!! It was too intense to cover here in the newsletter. But I will give you a few hints from the first half... mod-podge, finish layout room first, use cold water, 0.040" styrene and DuraBond 90!!

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.

CLINIC

At the last meeting, we had someone lined up, but they had to cancel. Instead, we watched a video tape of a TV show on train wrecks & accidents, mostly grade crossing stuff but also some train-to-train accidents. Interesting stuff! We did not finish the tape, as we ran out of meeting time. Howard has some clinics lined up for the next few months. COOL!! 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- Div 8 member Dan Lewis - famous for his N scale xxx railroad, will give us a clinic on building detailing!

PRODUCT REVIEW

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

LAYOUT TOURS

We had another great layout tour this past month! Our Thanks goes out to Doug & Hank Meyer, for hosting us in January! This is a moved-rebuilt layout in a new house! WOW, can you say HUGE basement and plans! Several Div 6 members made the trek for the tour. I hope you had a chance to stop by for the tour! Fred's working on more tours for several months out! To schedule a tour of your layout, call Fred Rockwell.

NEXT TOUR- Ron Scannell & Dennis Grudzinsky Garden City/Westland on Feb 24th from 1-5pm see map

MODELING INFORMATION

We had a new tip this month...

Jim Zinser told us about a great way to keep track of your paint sticks/pens! Take the cap from a 12z spray can of paint and the paint sticks/pens fit perfectly between the inner part and the outer wall of the cap! Then the cap full of paint sticks/pens sits nicely on your workbench! We look forward to more questions and tips next month!

DIV 6-8 FREE-MO?

Phil Doolittle from Div 8 was at our January meeting to present an idea for anyone wanting to be involved in an interesting layout idea- FREE-MO! What is Free-Mo? It is a modular layout that "flows freely" from module to module, as opposed to the typical oval modular layout. You build a module any shape or size, but the ends match the standard to allow other modules to attach to yours. This produce's layouts 100's of feet long! It's operated as single track mainline, point to point! Interested?, contact Phil at 248-375-2513 or email at doolittlep@comcast.net Howard Andrews of Div 6 will also be a contact person for us.

DIV 6 BY-LAWS

Nothing new to report. The bylaws Committee will be meeting soon.

DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Superintendent- Glenn Joppich
313-535-3837 steambigot@yahoo.com
Asst. Superintendent- Bill Rubarth
734-522-5876 wrubarth@twmi.rr.com
Secretary- Dick Harden
248-889-2228 Richhard01@comcast.net
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
History- Don Watson 248-349-3347
Layouts- Fred Rockwell 313-535-0309
Webmaster- Ed Beamish
734-266-2301 nedbeam@provide.net

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. Oakland and Macomb Counties are Division 8, the Ann Arbor area is Division 9 and a new Division has been formed in the Flint-Saginaw area. All total, there are about 8 Divisions in our Region.

NCR REGIONAL CONV '08

Div 1 from Toledo is hosting the 2008 NCR Convention, FAST FREIGHT '08. The dates are September 19-21, 2008. For more information, go to- www.divisiononencr.org/covn2008.htm or call Fred Lux 734-856-6489 or email Fred at fred@fredlux.com

DIV 6 MISC NEWS

Marty LaForte is still the guy to see if you want/need a Div 6 name tag. These are \$5 each, payable in advance and take about one month to get. See Marty at the meetings!

Howard will miss the next meeting as he'll be in President Elect Training for his local Rotary Club! Congratulations, Howard!

Watch the a steam loco comparison article by Joe Bliss in a future issue of the NCR HotBox!

Gary Mead reported that the GLLS had over 1042 riders for their Halloween night special run in Southgate. The GLLS schedule for 2008 was available at the meeting.

Robert reported that progress has been made on the Chi-Town O scale layout he helps on in Union Lake. This is shaping-up to be the largest O scale layout in the USA! There are 19 trains running by computer dispatcher plus 4-6 more run by operators, making close to 25 trains moving at one time! Chi-Town is open to the public every weekend thru March, \$4 entry fee.

Our layout tours for February could be/will be the last run for Ron Scannell, as he prepares to start on a new layout! Better get there in a few weeks!

DIV 9 NEWS

Got a report from Div 6 member John Wissinger on the Div 9 progress-Gentleman, Division 9 has had an election at the January meeting. The new officers are:

Superintendent: **David Simmons**
Asst Superintendent: **John Grubb**
Clerk: **Steve Parkinson**

I will be acting as an advisor for as long as they want me to. I thank everyone for their support while Dan Kempf and I worked to revive Div. 9. We seem to be on good straight track and will be high balling it! *John W*

RAILROAD HISTORY

History master Don Watson was present and Gary read the history report. This months lesson was on Don's early days of model rr'ing. He talked about the Lionel & American Flyer sets he had for Christmas, using cheese boxes for buildings. He saw many great store displays at department stores. Then in 1933 at the Chicago Fair, Don saw his first HO trains and 2 rail O scale! He was filling his bike tires with air and noticed the gas station was also a hobby shop and he bought his first Model RRer in 1937. He visited several clubs that were in old railroad stations and buildings. Then in 1940 after graduating from High School, Don joined a club that modeled in O scale and had quite the test as he had to hand lay several feet of track. Great stories! Thanks Don for the history and information! Thanks Gary for reading! We look forward to another lesson soon!

NANKIN HOBBY NEW STORE

Friday, Feb 1st is the opening of a new Nankin Hobby store on 9 Mile near Farmington Rd in Farmington. Opening weekend hours are Friday 10-8, Sat 10-6 and Sunday 10-4.

NCR REGION NEWS

I have received several questions about the Region recently and this has prompted me to provide you with an update on where things stand.

Election -- I asked for candidates to run for office at the Grand Rapids convention meeting, October 2006. Only one person came forward to fill six offices. After the National convention, I began actively recruiting volunteers to run the Region. This took some time as all of us were pretty worn after the push to make the National happen. I completed the project about December first and we have a slate. The ballots are at the printer and will go to all NMRA members in the Region. We are using the member list provided January 1 to our Registrar. *continued -->*

The slate is heavily represented by people that worked very hard on our National Convention Committee.

Candidates are:

President	Jack Watson	Div 6
Vice-President	Dave McMullian	Div 1
Secretary	Larry Wolohon	Div 6/8
Treasurer	Dean Pyers	Div 8
Director	Bill Neale	Div 6
Director	Marv Linke	Div 8

I expect that we will have a Region meeting in March and will recommend that to our incoming President. The ballot also has information about the Divisions and the next Region Convention in Toledo, September 19-21, 2008.

National Convention was the primary focus for the Region for the last five years. It was especially intense for 2006 and 2007. Most of the Region board and Division Superintendents filled key committee positions on the National convention. During 2007, I went to at least 30 meetings and have over 1,400 e-mails. If someone wants to know what the Region has been doing, we were running a National convention and some items fell by the wayside.

Hotbox -- was a casualty. Larry Wright, our editor for 20 years decided to turn over the Hotbox during 2006. We were unprepared. Larry Wolohon and Stu Sonta offered to help out during the crunch. Larry published one final edition and the new team published a second after the Grand Rapids convention. During 2007, Stu's insane work schedule along with my own caught up with us and there was only one issue published for 2007. Stu has a copy going to the printer in about a week. Barry Hensel has recently offered to work on the Hotbox. Where we need help is on articles. When this edition comes out, we will have used all available articles. We need your help to recruit people from each Division to send us material each quarter. We need people to write and to take photographs.

Membership -- We have a few less than 1,000 NMRA members in our geographic Region. All NMRA members in our geographic area are automatically members of the North

Central Region. Hotbox subscription is at extra charge of \$7 per year. We have about 550 subscribers to the Hotbox. Division membership is defined by County of residence. Marv Linke has a Region map that lays this out on the Div 8 website. Bob Polasky, our long time Registrar has decided to give up the duty to a new volunteer. Marty LaForte has offered to serve as Registrar and has been peppering me with questions.

Mission- The North Central Region is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is the education of NMRA members and promotion of the model railroad hobby. We deliver our service through:

- 1) Divisions holding regular meetings. There are eight active Divisions. Most meet monthly offering fellowship and clinics.
- 2) Annual convention
 - 2008 Toledo September 19-21
 - 2009 Fort Wayne
 - 2010 Livonia Div 6
- 3) Region Newspaper the Hotbox
- 4) Achievement Program

Finances -- The annual budget is about \$5,000. Most years the income and expenses are even. We plan to publish the Hotbox four times a year and have one additional mailing that goes to all members. The all member mailing is designed to encourage attendance at Division meetings, promote the annual convention and include a ballot on alternate years. Each mailing costs at least \$1,000. Since we are under spending on the Hotbox. Our current cash position very good. This makes it all the more important to crank up the photos and articles.

Division 9- Ann Arbor is up and running again. John Wissinger got it started and set up initial meetings.

Other Region staff members, not mentioned so far include:

Contest	Glenn Joppich
Photo Contest	Dan Lewis
Achievement	Larry Wolohon
Convention	Chuck White
Website	Larry Wright
Resident Agent	Uwe Thormaehlen

Tim Fisher, Outgoing President NCR

DIV 6 LAYOUT TOUR
Sunday, February 24, 2008
1pm-5pm

1) Ron Scannell
31009 Birchwood
Westland, MI 48185
734-722-0063

2) Dennis Grudzinsky
32284 Barton
Garden City, MI 48135
734-422-4262