

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

ON THE RAILS...

MARCH 2011

Yikes!! First we have lots of snow, then a thaw, then lots more snow! I hope everyone made it home from the Ann Arbor train show safely, as the roads were iced over and there were spinouts everywhere. With all that snow, it's nice to simply stay in and get your model railroading done! I hope you are making progress on your projects. Div 6 elections are upon us! These happen every 2 years (or so) and ARE important. Please consider who you will want as your officers. And while I would be honored to be nominated, I will respectfully decline in advance, as I am already way too busy with this newsletter, the HotBox and car club duties. Now, here's the rest of your Div 6 news-

LAYOUT TOURS

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A NEW LAYOUT TOUR CHAIRMAN. PLEASE consider helping out your fellow Div 6 members by taking on this position. If you are interested in being the Layout Tour Chairman, please see Glenn.

NEXT TOURS- none planned !!!

DIV 6 WEBSITE

The new Div 6 website is up. Check it out at- www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

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, MARCH 18, 2011**. 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.

DIV 6 ELECTIONS!

It's THAT time again!! ELECTIONS!! Nominations will take place at the next (March) and April meetings. There are term limits for our Superintendent who cannot run again. The Asst.-Super position will also need filled. Do not know if the Secretary and Treasurer positions will need filled. The actual elections will be at the May meeting. Lots of time to consider putting YOUR name in the hat!!

DIV 6 FALL SHOW & WKSHP

A discussion for the 2011 event was started at the last meeting. Some ideas that came forth were- make flyers for train shows upcoming (AA, GV and Redford); hobby shops are allowed free table for product displays (cannot sell items); looking at Lego club to attend; radio ads?? Closer to the show; appeal/advertise toward recently retired people; boy scouts are welcome but not on flyer- need to register if attending so we can plan properly; promote through scout organizations; Walt needs partner for food so that person can take over in 2012; actual clinics in other rooms?; try to have "take home" items (free) gives spectator something for money; clinic- model RR 101 from convention; flyer advertises that we have 4 MMR to ask questions; NEED ALL Div 6 members to participate!; have a presentation (pics/video) of Div 6 layouts to show what they can see by joining and attending meetings; expand contest to include photos! Great ideas and we hope more! We have acted on some of these already! The 2011 Div 6 FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP is Sunday, Nov 27th.

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Secretary- Howard Andrews
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OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF

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Clinics- Howard Andrews
734-728-4697 hwandrews@wowway.com
Layout Tours- **VOLUNTEER needed!!**
History- Norm Logan
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Webmaster- Ed Beamish
734-266-2301 nedbeam@provide.net
Div 6 Fall Show- Mark Ellis
734-421-2673 emark@sbcglobal.net
Meeting Coffee- Walt Plentis
248-535-8063 wwp4343@comcast.net

MODELING INFO W/LARRY

Here are **LARRY'S TIPS** for this month- showed vacuum system to aid in ballasting track by removing ballast from track ties. This had 3 containers for different "scales" of materials with a T handle for the suction device. To use, you dump ballast on track, use system to smooth out ballast by moving T handle along track (grooves in T to guide along track) which smoothes out the ballast and removing ballast not wanted, due to air pressure/suction. More pressure picks up more ballast! WOW!

**** another general tip** by Div 6 member John Hockenberger, if you are interested in scratch building structures, there are many interesting and typical building plans available on the web, through Iowa St U and they are FREE!

www.public.iastate.edu/~mwps_dis/mwps_web/bf_plans.html

We look forward to more questions, tips next month!

SHOW AND TELL

The subject for the last meeting was refer cars. Items shown were- Tropicana ref; boxcar to save 50cents; wood kit Armour ref; Sand Hill & Western; Burlington-Pacific; N scale C&O, RDG & Blatz from 60's; refer with local layout history; PRR express refer; REA refer; PFE refer; G scale refer CN; O scale Milw Rd refer; TrainMini refer; borrowed refer; FGE refer; PFE refer & Revell refer; 1949 paper side refer Mantua; Accurail Allegany Midland refer; N scale PFE refer; PFE refer wood ice car; C&O war bonds refer; NKP refer; AHM refer from KaBee toys - 68 bought!; MKT refer; Atheran Union refer in Erie; MKL Rd refer; intermountain PFE refer; pics of SP refers; GN woodside refer; 40-50 yr old refer - weathered w/graphite; 1880's MiCentral Hutchin's refer car (Hutchin's Co made RR car roofs); paper side refer; NKP refer; UP-Soo refer; Hoods milk refer; Burlington refer; Great Yellow Fleet- book on refer history; Varney refer kit and a PFE Tichy-Gould kit. We did have one belated Christmas gift- DRG drop-bottom gon.

Current Projects shown included- German rwys diesel; real telephones for layout communication; diagram of Saginaw portion of layout; scratch built wood car w/load started 40 yrs ago; steeple cab kit repowered. We did have some members donate to the caboose. Thanks to those that did.

NEXT MEETING-- tank cars

PRODUCT REVIEW

We had no product reviews this month. If you have a review item, see Glenn before the meeting.

TOOL TIME

Div 6 member Bill Deeter presents different tools and ideas- This month was a good tip- on coupler height gauge, paint bottom with nail polish to insulate so it can be placed on live track to check couplers "on the fly". THANKS Bill!

CLINIC

This months' clinic was by Div 6 member John Bopp on 1800s tank cars and tank car history. This was John's first clinic and he had a very nice computer presentation of pictures and he knew his subject. Well done! Some interesting facts- before tank cars, barrels were used for many items including liquids; 1850s when petroleum industry started, that caused tank cars to be needed; first tank car patent in 1863; first designs were wood box style tank with baffles inside, though never built to knowledge; next design was large barrels as wheels/axles on the rails!; next design was two large vats/barrels on a flat car - was used!!; 1868 was first real tank car design & patent issued; also called "boiler cars" because tanks looked like boilers; most tank cars were/are privately owned - not many owned by railroads, as they only traveled loaded in one direction and were a cost to operate and ship back. At this point, we were at 10:15pm and John had only gotten through near half of his planned presentation!! So we've booked him to finish next month!

WE ALWAYS NEED CLINICS for our meetings! 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- John Bopp on 1800's tank cars - PART 2 !!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had no new members at the last meeting. To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

NMRA REPORT

NMRA VP Dave Thornton was at the last Div 6 meeting and offered these NMRA tidbits- the NMRA photo collection and NMRA members only websites have both been through testing and should be available very soon! Please vote for Pete Magoun of our NCR region when you cast your NMRA Director's Ballot!

RAILROAD HISTORY

Norm presented another history lesson this past meeting. He gave us a brief history of refrigeration as a tie-in to the January clinic. As far back as cavemen, they found that food lasted longer in cooler places! First artificial refrigeration concept was in 1848; ice first shipped in 1799; mid 1800's ice shipped with insulated materials; 1851 first US patent for refrigeration unit; 1867 first refrigerated car design from Detroit; 1949 trucks started to have refrigeration units; in 1909 there were 2000 ice businesses in operation; CFC-Freon invented in 1920's to replace other refrigeration chemicals; lasted until 1985, when they were banned for environmental reasons. THANKS Norm- interesting information. Looking forward to another lesson soon.

DIV 6 MISC NEWS

It has been reported that the Home Depot at Middlebelt & Schoolcraft has homasote in 4x8 sheets \$30 each

NRHS Bluewater Historical Society wants to donate real RR passenger cars for FREE, contact them!!

Meeting FREEBIES!!- Jim Zinser brought in FREE magazines - but some articles have been cut out... THANKS! Nankin Hobby brought in fire damaged track - HO code 83 for FREE! THANKS! And someone had a pile of CD-DVD cases that were available, for FREE!! THANKS ALL!

Regional convention in Madison WI. Has Div 6 members Rich Mahaney and Norm Logan presenting clinics!

NMRA VOTE MAIL ERROR!!!

We have been informed that the return address for the NMRA Central District voting ballots is NOT correct!! Please make sure you send your vote to-

NMRA Ballot Committee
c/o Skingco Services, LLC
33530 1st Way S. Suite 102
Federal Way, Washington 98003-7332
... and vote for Pete Magoun!!

SPECIAL PROJECT CLINIC

As first mentioned at the January meeting and the last newsletter, there will be a special project-clinic opportunity for Div 6 members to build a static grass applicator. We now have more details available- Here are the websites for printing instructions, list of tools and materials needed-

www.allelectronics.com/make-a-store/item/SW-750/IONIZER/1.html

www.goldmine-elec-products.com/prodinfo.asp?number=G1783

www.ztrains.com/pages/tech/grassinator/grassinator.html

YOU MUST GET MOST OF YOUR OWN MATERIALS! We will use Nankin Hobby Farmington hobby room at the store on a Sunday morning from 10am-1pm. We have 9-10 people interested in making this project! Date to be determined and hopefully announced at the next Div 6 meeting. If you want to build one of these, you **MUST** contact Jim Hockenberger at 734-455-1536 or by email at- jmbhocky@aol.com Jim will help you get your materials, but **ALL Money MUST be paid at next meeting** for supplies!! Howard will bring in an applicator and demonstrate at next meeting. That could spur more interest!! THANKS Nankin Hobby for the use of your hobby room for this project!

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.

FOR SALE- walthers code 83, new in box, 6 #8 left, 3 #8 right DCC friendly; Shinohara code 70 1 #6 left and 5 #8 right. All for \$20 each Hank Meyer 248-486-0608

DIV 6 PROJECT LAYOUT

We have had no new information on this project. We expect to be contacting the NS people this month for more information & discussions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 20 - Trainorama Extra 2011 Presented by the Redford Model Railroad Club Costick Community Center 28600 11 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 10am-4pm \$5 per person, children under 12 free with paid adult

Friday-Sunday, April 15-17 - 3rd annual THREE RIVERS OPSIG Div 3-NCR-NMRA hosting w/NMRA OPSIG Various times \$12

Registration is through webpage, visit www.hoosierdiv3nmra.org

Friday-Sunday, April 15-17 - NMRA Regional conv in Madison, WI Website- www.nmra-scw.org

www.BadgerlandExpress2011.php

Thursday-Sunday, April 28-May 1 - Mid Central Region convention, Ohio www.railsofages.org/Convention/index.html



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