



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

## 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, MAY 21, 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.

## RAILROAD HISTORY

Norm was not present to do a History lesson this past month. Looking forward to another lesson next month.

## SHOW AND TELL

The subject for the last meeting was maintenance of way cars and/or equipment. Items shown were- Walthers work train set; Walthers Jordan spreader; hi-railer truck; illustrations of snow plow made by laser scan of real item; PRR ice breaker hopper; N scale crane/gon tender; Athearn crane with gon tender; unbuilt crane kits; B&O tool car/caboose; HOn3 fairmont speeder; trackside tool shed; MofW caboose; Mack bus; track cleaner car; work train caboose; Tichy/Gould crane and tender flat; GN snow plow/spreader and small crane car. Current projects included- new body for 7.5" gauge; G gauge work truck on rails and a GE diesel install sound/decoder. We did have some members donate to the caboose. Thanks to those that did. **NEXT MEETING-** off line structures, which is any structure NOT serviced or owned by the railroad

## BEST WISHES

Div 6 members would like to extend a heart-filled BEST WISHES to Frank Spadafore who had a recent heart attack. He is doing well at home; to Bob McKibben's wife who suffered a stroke; and to Bill McMillan who was at the meeting with a neck brace on recovering from back/neck surgery! Best wishes to all!!

# ON THE RAILS...

### APRIL 2010

WOW - MAY is here! It appears that 2010 is just "chugging" along! That also means that the NCX convention is getting closer, faster! Full update report later in the newsletter. May also means we'll be loosing some model railroading time, as the nicer weather tends to get us out of the basement and doing other things. That's OK too, but that convention deadline should keep you modeling. It's nice that we at Div 6 meet all year 'round, as that too, keeps our interest up during the summer months. Please keep attending for your enjoyment of our hobby and the friendships we all have with each other! 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 - adjustable jewelers saw and wood jig for cutting. Uses different blade sizes, some as fine as hair. Best saws/blades are made in Germany.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

## 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

We GOT the projector! But, we didn't use it just yet, as no one was quite sure how to! Doug and Ed will be looking over the owners manual and will become our "experts". Thanks guys! The projector was about \$850 and Asst. Super. Bill will be the keeper!

We were short a few people for the April meeting - Glenn was not here as he was in Indiana at Jim Six Expo, as was Marty and Dick too; Howard was not here as he was in Pittsburg for mini convention with John Wissenger. Wow, busy weekend!

## DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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248-889-2228 Richhard01@comcast.net  
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248-535-8063 wwp4343@comcast.net

## 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)

## 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](mailto:larrystrophy@sbcglobal.net)

## CLINIC

This months clinic was DCC installs by Joe Bliss. Some of Joe's advice was to test decoders first - use tester - available or can build one; Test motor current draw to make sure you are using proper decoder. Sometimes installing 2 decoders work best for the many functions that you may want - mars lights, etc... one sound/one silent. Enclose speaker in a box to make sound better/louder - make out of styrene. Joe showed many installs that he did, talked about some common problems of different manufactures. Nice info and a good clinic., Thanks Joe! 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-** Jay's wife - Brook doing house structures  
Future clinic in June - Rich Manahey on hazmat for model rr

## 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.

## MODELING INFO W/LARRY

Here are **LARRY's TIPS** for this month- Larry showed a "MoW tool"... which was a sanding block that was adjustable to use belt sanding belts for sanding benchwork/cork, and large areas.

Pin vises are available in 2 sizes, but the largest may not be big enough. Make your own LARGE pin vise by using a file handle, threaded rod and Jacob chuck. Thanks Larry for some great info!

### **OTHER TIPS-**

Neil Allen has source for SINTRA, which is a plastic used in sign making, that John Wissenger had mentioned in a recent clinic. A 4x8x1/8" thick sheet is \$37-47 depending on color, 1/4" thick is \$73-100. Scrap pieces are available from \$1.50-4 per sq foot. Eight colors are available. Contact Neil Allen - neilymca@comcast.net or at a Div 6 meeting. BE WARNED!!- not all glue will work with this material!

Mark Ellis- Athearn flats use flat metal weight under the floor deck, use strong small magnets glued to loads to hold the loads on the car!

Bill Deeter- for all kinds of stuff and decent prices, check out- **www.allelectronics.com** Motors, switches, etc... We look forward to more questions, tips next month!

## 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

THANKS to John Wissenger & Dan Kemf for being open on Sunday, April 25. Sorry about the map being slightly off. Thinking of hosting a layout tour? Give Dick a call or email to have your layout on tour!

**NEXT TOURS-** no tours planned for May

## NCX - NCR-DIV 6 2010 CONV

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

We're continuing to roll along! Last month Doug and Barry went visiting sites for the proto-type tours. While none were actually signed up, letters were dropped off and follow-ups will be made very soon. The bulk oil facility by Metro Airport sounded promising! Also looking at Awery Bakery! Marty reports that registrations are coming in and we're near or over the 40 mark! Barry has visited all of the other div meetings in NCR (except for 3 & 4 - to far away) for NCX promotion. He and our DVD have been well received! Our DVD did also get sent out to 25 other Divisions in our area - Ohio, PA, Indiana and Ill. Our layout tour schedule is set with 42 layouts confirmed! WOW, I believe that sets a new NCR record for a convention! The clinic schedule is also near complete with 24 hours of clinics! We may add a few more too. At the Div meeting, Barry presented information on possible items that we may purchase to sell - coffee mugs and logo patches. The prices weren't too bad and the Planning Team will discuss these soon. Get ready- NCX is ONLY 6 months away!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, May 15-** Model Railroad Open House GRMRHS 4040 Leland Ave. N.W. Comstock Park, MI 49321 11AM-4PM FREE, donations welcomed website- **www.grmrhs.org**

**Friday-Sunday, May 14-16-** Durand Railroad Days Model Train Show Durand Middle School Durand, MI 11am - 4pm \$3 (under 10 free) **www.durandrailroaddays.com**

**Saturday, June 5-** Lansing Model Railroad Club Open House 5309 Old Lansing Rd Lansing, MI 10am-5pm Free **www.lmrc.org**

**Sunday-Sunday, July 11-18 -** NMRA 75<sup>th</sup> annual National Convention Milwaukee, WI Times- varies each day Admission Fees- \$60 - \$175+ Contact Info- **www.nmra75.org**