

DECEMBER 2023

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! Yes, it's THAT time of the year, we're close to closing out 2023. It's been a pretty good year for Div 6 and I hope you and your family too.

We have LOTS of great news to impart! Please read all of the reports on the following pages.

We're ON for a great 2024 too! We start with the display of our Mi-Trak layout at the Novi show in mid-January. Then it's our turn at our 3rd annual Model RR Sale on Sunday, Jan 28. Then we get a break until October and the hosting of the NCX convention. It's good to be busy and involved!

With the colder weather upon us, now is the time most of us do the most model railroading. Here's hoping you have friends to help and get some great modeling done, and you'll be ready for the NCX convention in October!!

Please keep in contact with your family and your model railroading friends! Here's the rest of your Division 6 news-

#### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We had GREAT meeting turn-out with 42 attending, plus 3 on zoom! We had three new guests, Please welcome David, Brian & Debra Bergeson. This was their first Div 6 meeting as NMRA members! MMR's present were Bill Neale, Ken Chick, Larry Wolohon, Ron King and Scott Kremer. To all Div 6 members and guests, WELCOME ABOARD! OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF **DIVISION SIX** OF THE **NORTH CENTRAL REGION** OF THE **NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION** 

# ON THE RAILS...

#### **DIV 6 MEETINGS**

Our Division 6 meetings are on the THIRD Friday of each month. Our next Division 6 meeting will be on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023. The meeting will be held at the Civic Center Senior Center in Livonia, at 5 Mile and Farmington Roads. The meeting is from 7pm-10pm. We will broadcast the meeting LIVE on zoom! The link will be emailed a few days before the meeting. Continuing or dropping Zoom will be discussed.

## **DIV 6 TREASURY REPORT**

Tonight's TREASURY REPORT is -Treasure Report for October. Beginning balance \$2519.35. Deposits, checks, expenses and cash for table sales gives us an ending balance of \$2671.51 Thanks, Terry

#### **AP CERTIFICATES**

Ken Chick, our AP coordinator, was present at the last meeting and did not have any presentations to make. Please keep working on your Certificates!

# **DIVISION OF CHOICE**

Do you live in Oakland County, but attend Div 6 meetings? Then you can become an official Div 6 member!! All you need to do is fill out the DIVISION OF CHOICE form. See a Div 6 Board member for a form. Once filed, you can now vote and hold office in Div 6!

## **FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP**

At the last meeting, Mark, gave a good talk to get Div 6 members motivated, gave update on what has happened, publicity, etc... After the meeting we set-up tables! On the raffle, Nankin was very generous with us again!! THANKS!! We had \$325 rewards at Nankin + \$100 worth of gift cards + \$95 of misc items sold that could not be used in raffle! With all of that we had great raffle prizes!

NOW... We have good news.... we had a great event !! THANKS to the MANY Div 6 members that stepped up and did a display or help with the door or raffle or the Mi-Trak layout! Our crowd was counted at 101, but it looked bigger. Everyone seemed to be engaged with the displays and information we had to share. The raffle did very well too, selling close to \$450 worth of tickets. The front door donation jar also collected about \$200 and also included snack sales. So with our cost for the room and flyers, it looks like we had a small surplus to go into the treasury! Congratulations to Mark and the Show Team for planning a great event. NOW... with Div 6 hosting the NCR convention in October of 2024, it has been discussed to not do this event a month later. Let us know what you think of that idea. THANKS AGAIN !!

#### DIV 6 MODEL RR SALE

Set your calendars -

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 COSTICK CENTER, FARMINGTON HILLS

**10AM-3PM Early-bird at 9am** We continue to promote the Sale with emails and flyers! Flyers are at local hobby shops and train shows! Don't forget to sign-up on the work list!! We need about 9 more people to fill some easy to do jobs! This will be passed around the next meeting, THANKS!! WE NEED YOUR HELP!! The BIG news for this month - WE ARE SOLD OUT!! All of our tables are accounted for and we're putting any other requests on a waiting list. Let's have a great sale and event!!

# **DIV 6 MI-TRACK LAYOUT**

WOW... we did good... again! Our layout performed pretty good during the Div 6 Fall Show & Workshop. I'm not positive, but I think we had ALL possible modules there, including the new 5 track yard! THANKS to Bob and Ken for watching over the layout pretty much all day! Our next event is the Novi 2 day show in January, the weekend of Jan 20-21. However... We need everyone to do some checking on their modules...

\* Get a large steel square and make sure your module front/sides are SQUARE! If it is not square, please try to save off material to make it square!

\* If you cut the Bachmann rail jointers in half (because we asked you to) please make sure to remove that left over half of the jointer! We want to start using jointers again to help align track.

Hoping you can get those two items done by the Novi show! We hope you'll bring your module to Novi!

## **PRODUCT REVIEW**

If you have an item to review, see Paul before the meeting.

# **DIVISION 6 SHIRTS**

The shirts are a Port Authority brand polo shirt. Prices have increased and are now- small-XL w/logo \$34 logo/pocket \$37 logo/name \$40 logo/pocket/name \$45 XXL +\$8, XXXL +\$10 XXXXL +\$12 Shipping will be divided among those ordering. Mark is taking orders... either see him at a meeting, email or phone. ALSO - If you want a name badge... see Mark!

#### **BILL'S TOOL TIME**

Terry Kosmas will coordinate tips from the membership. If you have a tool tip to give, please contact Terry and he'll get you scheduled. We're looking forward to more tips soon.

## **SHOW AND TELL**

Our subject was RR MEMORABILIA! Here's what was shared - RDG YMCA towel, plates and silverware!; copper ingot; conductor ticket punch; Western Pacific museum photos; GN schedules/time-tables; B&O RR pass grandfathers; brake air hose; SP operations book; Miss Pac dinner plate; Amtrak menu's 1979; Chatham Model RR club RR spike; engineer oil can; Southern RR drawing of H4 consolidation loco by JC Pascal; NYC-P&LE lantern; RR spike P&LE RR bridge; GN schedule pamphlet; Conrail SD80mac operating manual; RR tie date nails from Toledo area; jar of loco sand from Cresson PA; conductors hat from Erie RR; book of depot post cards; EJ&E lantern; RR passes from GN; framed RR ad for the Leslie rotary plow; rendering of the Mich Central depot; CT1000 PRR book of industries; NS modern lantern; PRR stock certificate; dome light Brill electric bus; B&O sign; C&O lantern;

Current project - 3 covered hoppers; NYC coke car for company in Delray MI; VW bug camper; filament for 3D printing;

We did have some members that contributed to the caboose! The winner of the Nankin Hobby gift card was - John Grundstrom **NEXT MEETING -** flat cars with loads

## **LAYOUT TOURS**

Larry Wolohon is our layout tour chairman! If you want to schedule a tour of your layout, give Larry a call or email! We NEED layouts please!!

**NEXT TOURS-** We do have tours for December - Sunday, December 10 -Rick Neibert CSX, Tom Kosta GN and Barry Hensel RDG Lines. Open times are 1pm-5pm and a map is in this newsletter.

We need volunteers for all of 2024 so please consider hosting a layout tour! It's also a good trial for being on the NCX convention tour list!

#### **DIV 6 - RR HUMOR**

Here's some model railroad humor-



#### **DIV 6 MISC NEWS**

WE HAVE CARDS!! Paul has a supply of Div 6 business cards so that all members can have some of these to pass them out at shows, while at hobby shops or where-ever! COOL! Let's promote Division 6!

REMEMBER!!... when shopping at Nankin Hobby, tell them before your purchase is rung-up, that you are a Div 6 member! We get a share of your purchase price that we can spend for great raffle items for the Fall Show! Help Div 6 when shopping!! THANKS Nankin Hobby!! We're told this will work for ANY purchase at any Nankin store!!

We have LABELS!! If you are going to donate RR magazines, we have some Div 6 stickers that you can place on them to help people find us and our meetings! Please get some of these from Paul!

#### DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Superintendent- Paul Lichau 734-878-5390 plichau@yahoo.com Asst. Superintendent-Byrne Blumenstein 248-885-0874 1947sandy@gmail.com Recording Secretary- Bruce Wolff 947-216-9250 brucewolff@yahoo.com Treasurer- Terry Kosmas 586-441-9365 samsok99@hotmail.com Membership Director - Mark Ellis 734-536-5470 emark@sbcglobal.net Member at Large - Bill McMillan 248-349-7456 wmcmillan7456@gmail.com Webmaster- Ed Beamish 734-266-2301 phoenixblade70@gmail.com Communications Director -734-649-3056 Barry Hensel barry76Lt@wowway.com OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF Achievement Program- Ken Chick, MMR 734-420-0276 kdchick@wowway.com Clinics- Bill McMillan 248-349-7456 wmcmillan7456@gmail.com Layout Tours- Larry Wolohon 734-454-4816 larrywolohon@comcast.net History- John Bopp 248-477-6193 jbopp007@gmail.com Div 6 Fall Show- Mark Ellis 734-421-2673 emark@sbcglobal.net Meeting Coffee- Matt Letts 248-371-2971 mletts@mi.rr.com 2024 CONV Chairman - Norm Logan 248-348-2473 nlogan114@wowway.com

## **RAILROAD HISTORY**

John Bopp was at the November meeting and gave part 2 of his look at the Michigan Central Railroad in 19th century Detroit. John showed us the Michigan Central main line from the 3rd St passenger station out to Grand Trunk Junction and the MC's Livernois car shops and engine terminal at the then city limits, with a side trip to Delray. John used Sanborn maps from 1884 to show track layouts, and images from the Detroit Public Library's Burton Historical Collection to show many of the industries that were served by the MCRR.

It was all very Interesting! Thanks John! We're looking forward to another lesson soon!

#### **NEW ITEMS IN THE HOBBY**

Russ Hjelmberg sends info on new items to share. We have not received anything this month. The best way to contact Russ is by email: Russatnankin@yahoo.com

#### DIV 6 - NCR CONV 2024 !!!

The NCX24 Regional Convention is Thursday night to Sunday afternoon, Oct 10-13, 2024. We are NOW OPEN for registrations! You can fill out a form and mail it in, or go to the website and do it all ONLINE! Here's the website -



#### www.ncx24.ncrnmra.org

Go to the website to see our plans and lots of great information! There will be OPEN HOUSE LAYOUT visits, OPS sessions for you to enjoy, a RAIL YARD SALE for you to buy/sell stuff, and many Clinics on Friday and Saturday. There will also be an NCR Regional meeting at a dinner on Saturday with a keynote speaker. We also will have club layouts in the gym at Ward Church. Let's GET ON BOARD for NCX-2024!

Norm Logan - Event Chairman **nlogan114@wowway.com**.

#### **CLINIC**

WE ALWAYS NEED CLINICS for our meetings! Bill McMillan is our Clinic Chairman! To all Div 6 members, PLEASE share your talents and knowledge!

The clinic this past month was from Bill McMillan and was a short video on the NCX 2010 and the NS triple crown tour!! What a nice look back... Thanks Bill!

**NEXT MEETING-** Div 6 member Mark Ellis on flat car loads!

#### SUPERINDENDENT CORNER

Typically, this is the time of year when we reflect on the past year. I have been doing that about several things. I would like to focus on some reflections concerning Division 6, NCR, NMRA.

What follows might be considered an editorial, a concern or random thoughts. I am stating right now that I am not expressing anything more, I am not singling out any individuals or groups simply my reflections.

The NMRA, at the national level, is extremely concerned about the declining membership of the organization. The NMRA is an aging group and does not seem to be able to attract new, young(er) individuals into the fold. Why? Is the cost of the membership fee? Is the cost of the hobby (track, turnouts, locomotives etc.?) Is it the lack of interest in "railroading?"

While I feel the above items are a part of the problem, I feel there is another reason that needs to be added to the mix.

The President of the NMRA Gordy Robinson, MMR, has been focusing on an issue in many of his recent columns in NMRA publications. That is: are the regions, divisions and members recruiting new members? And, are the regions, divisions "welcoming" new members?

I presume that you realize that I am fairly new to model railroading. I joined during Covid and participated through Zoom. Then I started attending meetings. I only knew 1 person in Division 6. I did not receive any "welcoming info" from the Division. That was probably 3 years ago. Last year Bill McMillan said the there were no names submitted for either Secretary or Superintendent. I told him that I would run for Secretary. Then someone agreed to run for Secretary so I said I would run for Superintendent. I really didn't know many of the members. I now know several of you.

Unfortunately, I have seen some things occur that concern me. At a recent monthly Division 6 Zoom Executive Board meeting, it was brought up that we should cancel our Zoom service. The proponents said that only 2 or 3 ever use it so it was a waste of money (\$150/year) to continue this service. They decided that the December Zoom meeting will be the last. I believe that we should try as hard as we can to provide services to members that cannot attend in person meetings, for whatever reason, with access - if they so choose to "Zoom in." I believe this should be brought up to the members for a decision and not decided only by the Board.

Next: if someone pays their NMRA dues, they are "members in full." There are no other "requirements" in either the NMRA, NCR, or Division 6 constitution (by laws) that can cancel a member - as long as they are current in their national dues. There was a brochure that was passed out to prospective members at the Fall Show that contained a statement stating that if you missed 3 inperson meetings, you would be considered "inactive" and Division 6 would stop sending them the On the Rails e-newsletter. I do not feel this is "legal" and more importantly, not fostering good relations or encouraging new (or retaining current) members.

I am planning on bringing these two items up at our December 15 meeting to let the membership have a voice.

Hope to see you there in-person or on Zoom. 7pm Livonia Senior Center. It does take us awhile to set up the sound, computer and Zoom, so it might be a little after 7 before we are "connected." You can also email me at <u>Plichau@yahoo.com</u> with any thoughts.

Paul

#### THE OBSERVATION CAR

I think we need to stop calling what we spend our time on, our "hobby". It's our "Hyper Hobby"!

Bird photography is a hobby you take pictures of birds and that never changes. Painting is a hobby - you take some paint, put it on a canvas and that hasn't changed for centuries. Collecting sports memorabilia is a hobby you collect stuff, and that hasn't changed in decades. Even flying drones and planes doesn't change all that much.

Model railroading is constantly changing and doing it at an everincreasing pace. Ten years ago, who would've thought 3D printing, laser cutting, fiber optic lighting of structures, and character animation would start to be a common part of model railroading. All of that is aside from the sheer number of capabilities turning up on our decoder chips and sound cards. Every issue of our magazines has an article on the latest and greatest technology we get to learn and apply.

So with that dose of reality, and our tongues firmly implanted in our cheeks, I suggest we do a little "market differentiation" to draw more and younger people into our favorite interest.

Let's start telling people model railroading isn't a hobby. It's more like a "Hyper Hobby"! There is so much to it, it is changing constantly, and at incredible speed. It was never just about collecting, painting, or capturing something. It's about a pastime that is constantly changing, we always have new "stuff" to learn, it always makes us think in new directions. It includes low tech from our childhood, and high tech from our kids.

It's also amazing that we have fun creating something from the past, such as scenes and operation of a long-gone railroad name, using tools and technology that nobody even dreamed of in 1965! Not to mention the fact that, who knows what tools we'll have available by the time we actually get all our tracks down.

From now on, let's just refer to model railroading as our "Hyper Hobby" particularly when we are looking to attract new members or just the curious. Byrne

## **2025 NMRA NATIONAL**

STATION No.VI 90th NMRA National Convention July 14-19, 2025 Novi, Michigan, USA

All of the Divisions in the NCR will be contributing to this effort. The website for the convention is active -



www.nmra2025.com Check it out!

Planning and

budgeting are going well! More updates are in the NCR magazine the HotBox!





#### **DEEPEST SYMPATHIES**

Last month we told you of the passing of Ken Chick's wife Beverlee. Ken sends us this information to share-

Beverlee Ann Chick passed away on November 3, 2023, at the age of 86, after a several years long battle with COPD. She is survived by her husband, her sister, three sons, four grandsons and two granddaughters. Visitation will be at Griffin Funeral Home in Northville on Friday, January 12, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 13 from 11am to 1pm. There will be a short service at Noon followed by a luncheon at Rocky's of Northville at 1:30 pm. See her obituary at: https://www.griffinfuneralhome.com /northville

# FALL SHOW WINNERS

We are sorry that we did not get any photos of the contest tables and all of the entries, but it appears it was fairly full! Nice! Here are your winners.... Steam Loco -1st Place - Mark Ellis

TOC LTGOO		TIGET DITIES						
2nd Place ·	_	Ben DeSantis						
3rd Place ·	_	Mark Ellis						
Diesel Loco -								
1st Place ·	_	Bill McMillan						
Rolling Stoc	-							
1st Place ·	_	John Bopp						
2nd Place ·	_	Bill McMillan						
3rd Place ·	_	Barry Hensel						
Structures -								
1st Place ·	_	Norm Logan						
2nd Place ·	-	Norm Logan						

#### **DIV 6 WEBSITE**

If you want your layout featured, email ED your pictures and a small write-up!! Also, some clinics are posted on the website! Check it out at- www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

# LOCAL RR EVENTS

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays every weekend starting November 3 to March 24, 2024 - Chi-Town Union Station World's Largest O Scale Model Railroad and Longest Model train. 8275 Cooley Lake Rd, Commerce Charter Twp, MI 48382 Our 17th Season FOR SALE!! 11am to 5pm - Admission: Adults (18 and over) - \$6 Ages 5-17- \$3 Kids under 5 years - FREE 248-613-9471 www.chi-townunionstation.com/ Saturday's - Dec 9, 23 Redford Model RR Club Open House 27316 Michigan Ave Inkster, MI 11am - 5pm FREE - donations accepted Accepting new members! HO scale 56'x26' layout, DCC, single and double track mainlines info: www.redfordmrrc.org Saturday & Sunday - Dec. 9-10 Detroit Model Railroad Club Open House 104 North Saginaw St. Holly, MI 48442 Noon - 5PM Adults -\$5, Seniors (65+) - \$4, Children (5-18) - \$2, Children under 5 -See several O scale trains Free in operation, over a 350 foot double track mainline and several branch lines. 248-634-5811 webmaster@dmrrc.org December - 9-10, 16-17\*\*, 23, 27-30 Stoney Creek Model RR Layout Display Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm 1005 Van Hoosen Rd, Rochester Hills, MI \$5 Adults, \$3 Children and Seniors Museum Members - Free! \*\*Old-Fashioned Christmas Day -\$10 for non-members, \$8 for members Info - www.scmrrc.org www.rochesterhills.org/museum/ Saturday & Sunday - Dec. 9-10 and 16-17 Blissfield Model RR Club Open House 109 E Adrian St, Blissfield, MI 49228 517-486-0404 https://bmrr.org 10am-3pm both days LARGE HO scale layout! FREE admission (donations welcome) December 9 & 10 - SOUTHERN MICHIGAN RR Santa Trains The Santa Express schedule and ticket prices are on the website http://www.southernmichiganrailroa **d.com/** The Southern Michigan RR is located in Clinton, MI only 30

minutes west of Saline







# **NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024**



#### A MODEL RAILROAD WEEKEND CONVENTION!

## THURSDAY - FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY OCTOBER 10-11-12-13, 2024 NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN, USA

WELCOME to the NCR Model Railroad Convention, NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024! The convention is being hosted by DIVISION SIX, located in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. We are planning a great weekend of model and prototype railroading, just for YOU! Please access our website for all of the important information you need to help you to decide to attend this event. As you'll soon read, we're concentrating on having fun and learning all about model railroading! All you need to do is fill out the registration page, send it in with your registration fees and you'll be part of one of the greatest model railroad events in Michigan! Visit us online and register there using your credit card and PayPal security services! Come and join us for the MAXIMUM model railroad FUN, all in one weekend!

Open to ALL model railroaders! You DO NOT have to be an NMRA member to attend!

#### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE-

- \* Event site Ward Church, Northville, MI
- \* Event shirts available pre-order only
- \* Special DAY PASS entry available!
- \* Online Registration available on website!
- \* Banquet Dinner on Saturday evening
- \* Clinics on Friday and Saturday
- \* Operation sessions available Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- \* NO model contest MODEL SHOWCASE show off your work!!
- \* Get a discount for participating in the Model Showcase!!
- \* Model layouts to visit on Friday and Saturday
- \* Prototype tours on Friday (if available)
- \* Yard Sale of new/used model railroad equipment
- \* Ask the Experts (MMR's) table
- \* EVERYONE welcome to attend!

For more information or questions answered, contact -Norm Logan, Chairman –

248-444-3491 *nlogan114@wowway.com* Paul Lichau, Div 6 Superintendent -734-878-5390 *plichau@yahoo.com* 

Mark Ellis, Asst. Chairman -734-536-5470 emark@sbcglobal.net visit our web pages at- ncx24.ncmmra.org









# NCX - NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION

Name				Spouse			
Address							
City				State			
City	2			State			
Phone				Zip			
email		1990					
NM RA No.	Regio	n	Div		MMR		
110.	REGISTRATION FEES how many						
	on or before September 25, 2024 - NMRA mem	ber		\$65 I			
	on or before September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA			\$75			
	after September 25, 2024 - NMRA member			\$75			
	after September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA membe	r		\$85			
	on or before October 13, 2024		One Day Pa	2007			
	RATION - is per person for anyone over 18 years				now many		
old that will be participating in the convention activities. Spouse is free if ONLY attending layout tours and/or dinner. Children under 18 years old are free for the weekend and welcome to attend convention activities with a paid adult.		Dinner per pe	erson	\$25			
		sweat shirt	small	\$34			
Dinner - SPAGHETTI DINNER!! Everyone (including children under 18) must pay for dinner if you are attending. This also includes our Keynote Speaker and Awards presentation. NOTE- cut-off date for dinner is October 1, 2024. Event Sweat shirts are cotton/poly blend, green in color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side			medium	\$34			
			large	\$34			
			X-large	\$34			
			2X-large	\$34			
			3X-large	\$34			
			4X-large	\$34			
Event polo shirts are 35-65% cotton-poly no pocket shirts, green in color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on the left side NOTE- cut-off date for ordering shirts is September 10, 2024. There will be NO shirts available at the convention! Model Showcase Discount!! If you bring a model to display in the Showcase room, we will give you a \$5 discount on your entry to NCX-24! NOTE - you do NOT get \$5 per model!! Only ONE discount per person no matter how many models you bring. Discount to be given at Registration!		polo shirt	small	\$32			
			medium	\$32			
			large	\$32			
			X-large	\$32			
			2X-large	\$32			
			3X-large	\$32			
			4X-large	\$32			
ONE DA	YPASS - is for Saturday only and includes all the			TOTAL			
chines un	at day and 5 layout tours.			Autor The Ca Child Tomater Autor Taraca	NTRAL EXPRESS 10-17, 2024 LE, BUCANDAN		

Payment to be check or money order made out to- NMRA DIVISION 6

Send registration form with payment by October 1, 2024 to- **NCX Registrar** 35684 Camden Ct Farmington Hills, MI 48335 ON-LINE registration available until October 7, 2024 at ncx24.ncrnmra.org



Division 6 – NCR – NMRA 42167 Ridge Road West 2528 Movi, MI 48375

33350 W Nine Mile Rd Farmington, MI 48336 248-919-0040

1480 Washtenaw Ave Ypsilanti, MI 48197 734-961-7575

12020 Fort St Southgate, MI 48195 734-250-7382 Division 6 and it's membership wishes to extend a big THANK-YOU to Nankin Hobby for their continued support!

