



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

ON THE RAILS...

FEBRUARY 2023

An interesting way to end the month of January... let's do a trip to the biggest train show in the US - Amherst! Several friends went and WOW... what an event! Our own Div 6 Model RR Sale was great too. See the report elsewhere.

The new Div 6 Board of Directors is on track to keeping Division 6 up and running! Some changes to the meeting format in January, but all is good and working well.

Now that our Sale is over, we look forward to planning the next FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP and the 2024 NCR convention. A special Planning Team will look at the Fall Show and figure out what we need to do to bring it back to being an even greater event. Stay Tuned!

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 good meeting turn-out with 35 attending, plus 3 on zoom! We had no new members. MMR's present were Larry Wolohon, Ken Chick, Bill Neale, Scott Kremer, Ron King and Jim Zinser. To all Div 6 members and guests, **WELCOME ABOARD!**

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

DIV 6 MEETINGS

Our Division 6 meetings are on the THIRD Friday of each month. Our next Division 6 meeting will be on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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.

DIV 6 MODEL RR SALE

We did GREAT!!! First, THANKS to ALL of the volunteers that helped on the day of the Sale. Your dedication made the event run smoothly and was good for vendors and spectators alike. At this time, all the numbers are not quite tallied, but attendance was good at approx. 425. We'll have a full break-down on numbers and surplus at the February meeting. Vendors have said sales were good and they were pleased. Spectators said we were BETTER than the Novi show!! WOW! So very nice to know we did that well! THANKS again!!!

AP CERTIFICATES

Ken Chick, our AP coordinator, had no awards to give out at the January meeting. Please keep working on your Certificates!

PRODUCT REVIEW

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

SUPERINTENDENT CORNER

My first meeting as your Superintendent is in the books and I feel thankful for all of the kind comments from the members and it takes a bit of the edge off of the position.

I am also impressed with our volunteers that step up and work a shift (or more) at our events. Thank-you so much. Your contributions keep our Division functioning!

We had 30+ members in attendance for the January meeting. Let's try for 40+ next time.

As with any new officer, I have some ideas that I would like to present as the year goes forward. One of these was to place the "Clinic" earlier in our meeting so that we would not be too pressed for time as the 10pm hour approaches, and a "visiting clinician" would not have to wait so long to present the session. This was well received after last January's meeting. Another idea was to limit the time each member had for "Show & Tell" to 3 minutes. That went really well. Now maybe we could "alternate" Show & Tell with some other individual member item etc. to present.

Next, I would also like to see more of our members qualify for some Achievement Certificates. Not necessarily go "all in" for an MMR - but at least a couple of Certificates. I started to talk with Ken Chick about this and might have something to present soon.

Another "also" is to have more of our members present clinics at our meetings. I know that so many of you have "things that you do so well, that it would be great to share with the rest of us. It does not have to be long - maybe 15- 30 minutes. We can also have 2 short clinics at a meeting.

I will leave you with one of my favorite thoughts: "If we keep doing what we have done, we will always be what we were."

PAUL

SHOW AND TELL

Our subject was **something you received or gave yourself for the holidays**. Here's what was shared - t-shirt and depot sign and steam engine artwork sculpture; paper cut-out book of trains; train Christmas cards from vendors at work; 50' dbl door 0 scale boxcar; book; Sou Pac logo sign; book; 027 loco Marx brand; CN hat; milk car; Pere Marquette train in pen; Monon N scale cars; hemostat tools; static grass sheet maker; container loader; Bachmann 4-4-0; RR throw pillows; air brush kit; N scale U50 loco; Allen McClellan book; mini-prints 3d printed details/animals; 1929 track inspection car dcc!; Dewalt tools; Narrow Gauge Annual magazines

Current projects - Reading RR heavyweight baggage car; craftsman dock/crane kit;

We did have some members contribute to the caboose! The winner of the Nankin Hobby gift card was - Matt Letts!

NEXT MEETING - lumber cars

DIV 6 MI-TRACK LAYOUT

We're still working on an idea to create a staging yard. We don't have another event to attend, but please keep working on your module!

LAYOUT TOURS

WE'RE BACK!!! THANKS to Larry Wolohon, who has volunteered to be our new layout tour chairman! Layout tours have returned! YEAH!! Thanks to those that volunteered. **It's up to YOU guys...** if you want tours, you need to volunteer and get your friends to volunteer! We **NEED NEW** people & layouts please! Please contact LARRY to get your layout scheduled for a tour!

NEXT TOURS- none for February
MARCH - Saturday, March 11 - Mike Tranquella, Pierre Willermet and Larry Wolohon 12noon-4pm Map and directions will be in the next
ON THE RAILS

RAILROAD HISTORY

John Bopp was present at the meeting and give a lesson on Fish Cars! US Fish Commission RR car - 1873 Dr Livingston Stone was tasked with transporting fish to east coast. The fish were shipped in milk cans. Crews needed to go along to maintain the fish and needed quarters. Normal baggage cars would no longer good enough, so a special car was designed. Soon a second and third car were also made. A replica of car 3 is in Spearfish, SD. 1893 saw car 4. After 1916 all cars were steel instead of wood starting with car 7. A new container was made which was twice as good as the old milk cans. Car 10, the last, was built in 1920. By 1940 only 3 cars remained in service. Several states also had their own fish cars, including Michigan. A very interesting lesson! Thanks John, we're looking forward to another lesson soon!



DIV 6 - NCR CONV 2024 !!!

Our Chairman, Norm Logan says the planning team is shaping-up nicely! We'll need volunteers to help run the registration desk, display room, RR Yard Sale room, etc!! The convention is **Oct 10-13, 2024.**

Our site is Ward Church in Northville and we have been approved by the church Board. We're planning on OPS sessions, clinics, layout tours and a lunch or dinner with a guest speaker.



DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Superintendent- Paul Lichau
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1947sandy@gmail.com

Secretary-
Ed Beamish 734-266-2301
phoenixblade70@gmail.com

Treasurer- Terry Kosmas
586-441-9365 samsok99@hotmail.com

Membership Director - Mark Ellis
734-421-2673 emark@sbcglobal.net

Member at Large - Bill McMillan
248-349-7456
wcmillan7456@gmail.com

Communications Director -
Barry Hensel 734-649-3056
barry76Lt@wowway.com

OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF

Achievement Program- Ken Chick, MMR
734-420-0276 kdchick@wowway.com

Clinics- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!**

Layout Tours- Larry Wolohon
734-454-4816

larrywolohon@comcast.net

History- John Bopp
248-477-6193 jbopp007@gmail.com

Webmaster- Ed Beamish
734-266-2301

phoenixblade70@gmail.com

Div 6 Fall Show- Mark Ellis
734-421-2673 emark@sbcglobal.net

Meeting Coffee- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!**

2024 CONV Chairman - Norm Logan
248-348-2473 nlogan114@wowway.com

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!

DIV 6 TREASURY REPORT

With the report given at the January meeting, at this time I still have the Sale event accounting to do. Thus, another full report at the February meeting. Thanks, Terry

CLINIC

WE ALWAYS NEED CLINICS for our meetings! **We also need a new Clinic Coordinator!!** PLEASE share your talents and knowledge!

The clinic this past month was something a bit different, group participation in sharing your model RR nightmares! Here's some that were shared.....

** Bake solvent painted items in oven, did brass engine, but didn't check temp and the brass model came totally unsoldered!

** open house for convention, took shower in morning, no hot water... heater gave out and got a new one installed before the tour time!

** kitchen garbage disposal water leak into basement and on wood building model

** pinhole leak in water line to ice maker, dripped for 1-2 days and soaked ceiling and some railroad items

** cat loves wiring and could be messing with wires on new control panels

** moved to Novi, clear basement, did G scale plan, built layout, ran trains!, time for sidings... NO ROOM! Completely redid the layout with new track plan designed for ops

** 2004 Det M RR club - switched to DCC... open house approaching, everything working great, opened the doors - nothing worked!! 5 boosters fried!! Had 2 extra so tour went on. Was a lightning strike!!

** metal shavings gapped newly built turnout and started smoking! O scale and lots of power!

** 60's- loco's on shelf, fell off wall and all locos ended up on floor!

** layout wired, but too small of wire... 500" of wire

** working for rail company with new loco designs, was asked to build O scale model of prototype-made with wood rods, styrene, etc... Came unglued while on airplane traveling from pressure!

** soldered tool in the wiring while working on layout!

** paint brush laying on track causing short - didn't find for many hours!!

** during kitchen remodel... floor had to be fixed and hole in floor exposed layout!

** dishwasher hose gave out in middle of night... flooded first floor and then into basement. Layout was not started but stacked drywall was lucky and only lost one sheet of 30!

** freemo set-up for Div 8 convention several years ago... all the main modules could not show due to illness at last minute... had very limited display with limited power... but made it work

** visiting Fostoria and saw a loco derail. No trains all day, but saw loco re-railed. Crews ran it over spot and it derailed again!

NEXT MEETING- Norm Logan on building "bullet-proof" trees

BILL'S TOOL TIME

Div 6 member Bill Deeter was at the last meeting and did not have a tool report. Terry Kosmas has volunteered to coordinate tips from the membership, allowing 2 or 3 to be presented per meeting. If you have a tool tip to give, please contact Terry and he'll schedule you for some meeting time! Samsok99@hotmail.com
We're looking forward to more tips soon.

ANOTHER THANK-YOU!!

We have another THANK-YOU to broadcast to the Div 6 membership, but it also comes with a need!! First, we say THANK-YOU to Bill Deeter for being our coffee/cookie guy for the past 7 years!! At the February meeting, Bill will make his last pot of coffee, as he has asked to retire from this position. Thus... we NEED someone to step-up and take this over. OR... we simply do not offer that service anymore. Up to you!! Once again THANKS Bill for your great help in Division 6!!

NEW ITEMS IN THE HOBBY

Russ Hjelmberg had a few new items to share via email. The best way to contact Russ is by email:

Russatnankin@yahoo.com

While not a NEW product announcement, we do have some local hobby news to report. Nankin Hardware and Hobby originally started out as a feed store in the 1950's in what was at the time called Nankin Mills Township. Not far after that it was turned into a full service hardware store. In the 1960's it decided to add another category to the mix and started dabbling in the hobby industry. We've been told that the Nankin Hobby & Hardware store in Westland, Michigan, THE original Nankin hobby store, will be without a model railroad department soon. It seems that interest at that store is just not there enough to give a whole aisle or more to those products. Your "On The Rails" Editor remembers being there as a kid on his bike, seeing many brass locomotives and wondering why they were that color! Other stores may also consolidate some of their railroad products too.

DIV 6 - RR HUMOR

Here's some model railroad humor-



History was made this morning with the first ever double-header of 1309 and the Big Boy!

DIV 6 MISC NEWS

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!

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!!

2025 NMRA NATIONAL

We've been officially approved!! At the recent NMRA Board meeting in Springfield, MA., the 2025 NMRA National Convention will be hosted by us, the North Central Region! All of the Divisions in the NCR will be contributing to this effort. Scott Kremer, MMR from Div 6 will be heading up the efforts and forming a Planning Team soon. The Sheraton in Novi has been selected as the HQ of the convention for clinics, displays rooms, yard sale, etc. The National Train Show will be held at the Suburban Showplace. The proposed dates are mid-July 2025.

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!

LOCAL RR EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, Feb 25-26; Mar 11-12; 25-26 - 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 Free 248-634-5811
webmaster@dmrrc.org

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays - every weekend to March 26, 2023 - Chi-Town Union Station 8275 Cooley Lake Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382 11am to 5pm Admission: Adults (18 and over) - \$6 Ages 5-17 - \$3 Kids under 5 years - FREE **NMRA members 50% off** 248-613-9471
www.chi-townunionstation.com/

Saturday's - Feb 4, 18; March 4, 18 - 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, Feb 4 - Ole Toy & Train Show Monaghan KofC 19801 Farmington Rd, Livonia, MI 11am-3pm. Admission is \$3/person \$6/family \$10/early birds 10:30am Free Parking, Food available. Handicap accessible. Contact Info: Brian Klotzer 313-255-0466 7pm-9pm only please or Greg - club2690@gmail.com

Sunday, Feb 5 - SS Simon & Jude Railroadiana Show Westland, MI - SS Simon & Jude Parish Hall Bob Patterson 734-728-1247

Saturday-Sunday, February 18-19, 2023 - 53rd Annual Train Show and Sale Saline Middle School 7190 N. Maple Road Saline, MI 48176 Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 10am-3pm Adults \$6 Under 10, Free with paid Adult Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club and the Huron Valley Railroad Historical Society are hosts. Info: <http://a2trainshow.com> Phone: 734-426-5100-Wed Evenings 734-426-0829-Answering Machine info@a2trainshow.com

Saturday & Sunday - Feb 25-26, Mar 25-26 - 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!! admission FREE (donations welcomed)

Sunday, March 12 - Greater Toledo Toy & Train Show Owens Comm College 30335 Oregon Rd., Perrysburg, OH 10am-3pm early-bird at 9am Randy Ramsey 419-215-4181 Toledotoymasters@gmail.com

Sunday, March 19 - Model Train Show/Sale at Taylor Town Trade Center, 22525 Ecorse Rd, Taylor Michigan 10am-6pm \$5 admission model contests, food available Mike Leland 313-955-5523

Division 6 and it's membership wishes to extend a big THANK-YOU to Nankin Hobby for their continued support!



**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**

Photos from our 2nd annual MODEL RAILROAD SALE!! (from a friend)



**Division 6 -NCR -NMRA
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