



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

## **ON THE RAILS...**

### **MARCH 2023**

YEAH!! Layout tours return this month with 3 layouts open for your viewing and learning pleasure. See the article and map later in the newsletter.

We really want to increase the attendance at the monthly meetings. Do you have any suggestions? Please let us know.

We have a bit of a "lull" in our Div 6 activities. But, don't fret as these will ramp-up again very soon. Remember, planning is on-going for our 2024 NCR convention, the 2025 NMRA National and our annual Fall Show & Workshop! Plus, our 2024 Div 6 Model Railroad Sale plans start and wrap-up very soon too! No rest for the involved! Please consider getting involved!

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 33 attending, plus 3 on zoom! We had two new guests, Richard Zawallicki and Ken Myers. MMR's present were Larry Wolohon, 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](http://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, MARCH 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!!!** 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 spectators and vendors alike. For the final report... we had 329 paid through the door and after expenses, we had a surplus of \$2852 to be added to the Division bank account. We'll be starting on the 2024 event plans very soon. THANKS again to all!

### **AP CERTIFICATES**

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

### **RAILROAD HISTORY**

John Bopp was present at the meeting but we were running short of time, so he'll give another lesson in March. Thanks John, we're looking forward to another lesson soon!

## SUPERINDEPENDENT CORNER

Division 6 is a strong group of model railroaders. You volunteer to do things from setting up for a train show to volunteering to prepare coffee at the meetings! My sincere appreciation and "Thanks a bunch" go out to all of you!

I would like to urge you to help by seeking out some of your friends that are model railroaders - but do not belong to the NMRA. The NMRA has a wealth of help for those that are "rookies" that are just starting to build a layout (like me) to the experienced MMR trying to resolve an issue with the DCC wiring. Division 6 has great group of experienced members that are a joy to chat with. Can you urge a friend to join us for the fellowship of the NMRA? There is a great deal right now called "Rail Pass." A person can become a member of NMRA for a 9 month trial period for only \$19.95! Full access to all NMRA products and the website. The only things that they cannot do is vote or hold office. I have the paperwork with me at the meetings.

As you are probably aware, our Division 6 computer (laptop) and video projector are showing their age. The Board is proposing to purchase new equipment to better serve our members. At the February meeting, a motion was made to have the Board provide the membership (at the March meeting) proposal for purchasing new equipment that would have the best equipment for our needs and the cost. The membership will then decide what to do.

Division 6 is trying to create an accurate list of all members including the "Division of Choice (DOC)" folks. It seems that the North Central Region (NCR) has not kept an accurate list for us to identify our DOC members. The list provided by the NCR only goes to 2015. So... if you are a DOC member or know of our DOC members could you ask them to email me (plichau@yahoo.com) and we will add them to our list.

See you in March, Paul Lichau

## PRODUCT REVIEW

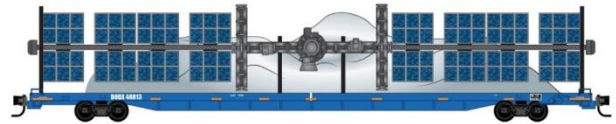
If you have an item to review, see Paul before the meeting. My apologies to Bill McMillan!! He was going to give a product review of the following new product that we got a notice of. We're still not sure if this is real... or a spoof! Early April fools? NOPE! It's real and can be ordered in N scale from Micro-Trains!

**Mid-Month Pre-Order**

**N Scale**

**DODX with Mystery Weather Balloon Load**

**Pre-Order Now for mid-April 2023 Delivery**



\*Solar Panels will be decorated

\*Multi-media kit includes unassembled, undecorated pieces

\*Rendering shown for representation only

#071 00 610...\$49.95

## SHOW AND TELL

Our subject was **Lumber cars!**

Here's what was shared - RDG 60' dbbl door boxcar; B&O flat w/cut lumber; bulkhead flat w/load; Athearn log flat car; all door boxcar Georgia Pacific; N scale Erie flat w/logs; N scale bulkhead flat w/lumber load (Don Watson car); Athearn bulkhead flat; MacMillan building products all door boxcar; Central Valley boxcar kit; O scale flat car w/lumber load (coffee stirrers); O scale GN boxcar w/lumber door on end; gon w/log load; opera window center beam car; flat car w/lumber load; 3 truck Shay logging loco; log car w/logs; flat car w/lumber load; bulk head flat w/log load; flat car w/logs; log car w/logs; Milwaukee Rd dbbl door boxcar.

Current projects - diagram of street car power wiring; Walthers news stand kits.

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

**NEXT MEETING** - railroad cars related to the auto industry

## DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Superintendent- Paul Lichau  
734-878-5390 [plichau@yahoo.com](mailto:plichau@yahoo.com)

Asst. Superintendent-  
Byrne Blumenstein 248-885-0874  
[1947sandy@gmail.com](mailto:1947sandy@gmail.com)

Secretary-  
Ed Beamish 734-266-2301  
[phoenixblade70@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixblade70@gmail.com)

Treasurer- Terry Kosmas  
586-441-9365 [samsok99@hotmail.com](mailto:samsok99@hotmail.com)

Membership Director - Mark Ellis  
734-421-2673 [emark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emark@sbcglobal.net)

Member at Large - Bill McMillan  
248-349-7456  
[wcmillan7456@gmail.com](mailto:wcmillan7456@gmail.com)

Communications Director -  
Barry Hensel 734-649-3056  
[barry76Lt@wowway.com](mailto:barry76Lt@wowway.com)

### OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF

Achievement Program- Ken Chick, MMR  
734-420-0276 [kdchick@wowway.com](mailto:kdchick@wowway.com)

Clinics- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!**

Layout Tours- Larry Wolohon  
734-454-4816  
[larrywolohon@comcast.net](mailto:larrywolohon@comcast.net)

History- John Bopp  
248-477-6193 [jbopp007@gmail.com](mailto:jbopp007@gmail.com)

Webmaster- Ed Beamish  
734-266-2301  
[phoenixblade70@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixblade70@gmail.com)

Div 6 Fall Show- Mark Ellis  
734-421-2673 [emark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emark@sbcglobal.net)

Meeting Coffee- Matt Letts  
248-371-2971 [mletts@mi.rr.com](mailto:mletts@mi.rr.com)

2024 CONV Chairman - Norm Logan  
248-348-2473 [nlogan114@wowway.com](mailto:nlogan114@wowway.com)

## 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.

## 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

February Treasure's Report- Our balance is \$4922. We also have a petty cash amount of \$40. We also have \$400 in our PayPal account from our 2016 convention registrations to be transferred into the bank account. Thus, our total cash assents are \$5362  
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 by Barry Hensel on his recent RDG auto rack car build. Barry showed some history and documentation on the real cars that the Reading RR owned. Then he moved into showing how he actually built a very close representation of the car in HO scale. Nice work and detail!

A second "clinic" was an overview of a trip to Springfield, MA and the huge Amherst RR Show that was taken by Barry, Terry and a few other friends. This report was also by Barry Hensel and assisted by Terry Kosmas. WOW! What an event!! They even took Amtrak to get there and back! Riding the train to a train event - cool! It's a trip that all model railroaders should make at least once! Thanks Barry and Terry for the interesting reports/clinics!

**NEXT MEETING-** Norm Logan on building "bullet-proof" trees - it's a make/take, please bring needle nose pliers

## LAYOUT TOURS

**WE'RE BACK!!!** Larry Wolohon has volunteered to be our new layout tour chairman! If you want to schedule a tour of your layout, give Larry a call or email! We had no tours in February.

**NEXT TOURS-** Saturday, March 11 - Mike Tranquilla, Pierre Willermet and Larry Wolohon 12noon-4pm See map/directions a few pages away.

## DIV 6 - NCR CONV 2024 !!!

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.



## NEW ITEMS IN THE HOBBY

Russ Hjelmberg didn't have any new items to share this past month. The best way to contact Russ is by email: [Russatnankin@yahoo.com](mailto:Russatnankin@yahoo.com)

## NCR CHARITY DONATION?

Barry Hensel made an email proposal to the NCR Board of Directors and all Divisions to help people in Ohio rail disaster - \$100/division and \$500 NCR = \$1400 total. It appeared that nearly no one was helping these people out! The Motion was made and approved by the Division 6 membership! THANKS!! However... over the weekend following our meeting, it was reported that FEMA and NS have stepped-up their efforts to help the community! Barry has withdrawn his proposal with the NCR Board. Thanks for the support anyway!

## 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!

## DIV 6 - RR HUMOR

Here's some model railroad humor- You have enough **Trains!!** But I don't have **THESE Trains!**



## 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!!

## NEW DIV 6 EQUIPMENT

The Div 6 Board of Directors is looking at replacing our laptop and projector, as the ones we have are getting past their prime and are even not working in some cases. Full report at future meetings before action is taken.

## 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.

## LOCAL RR EVENTS

**Saturday-Sunday, 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](mailto: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/](http://www.chi-townunionstation.com/)

**Saturday's - 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](http://www.redfordmrrc.org) Phone: 734-426-5100-Wed Evenings 734-426-0829-Answering Machine [info@a2trainshow.com](mailto:info@a2trainshow.com)

**Saturday & Sunday - 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](mailto: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

**Saturday, March 25** - Lincoln Park Train Club Show JFK Memorial Building, 3240 Ferris St, Lincoln Park, MI (behind church) Darrell Hicks, 734-624-1462, 6PM to 10 PM

**Saturday, April 01** - 2020 Spring Swap Meet Kalamazoo, MI Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds Expo South 10am-3pm \$3 admission under 10 free David Hayes-Moats 269-344-0906

## DIV 6 MI-TRACK LAYOUT

We don't have another event to attend, but please keep working on your module! Maybe we can schedule a daytime get together in April.

**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

## THE OBSERVATION CAR

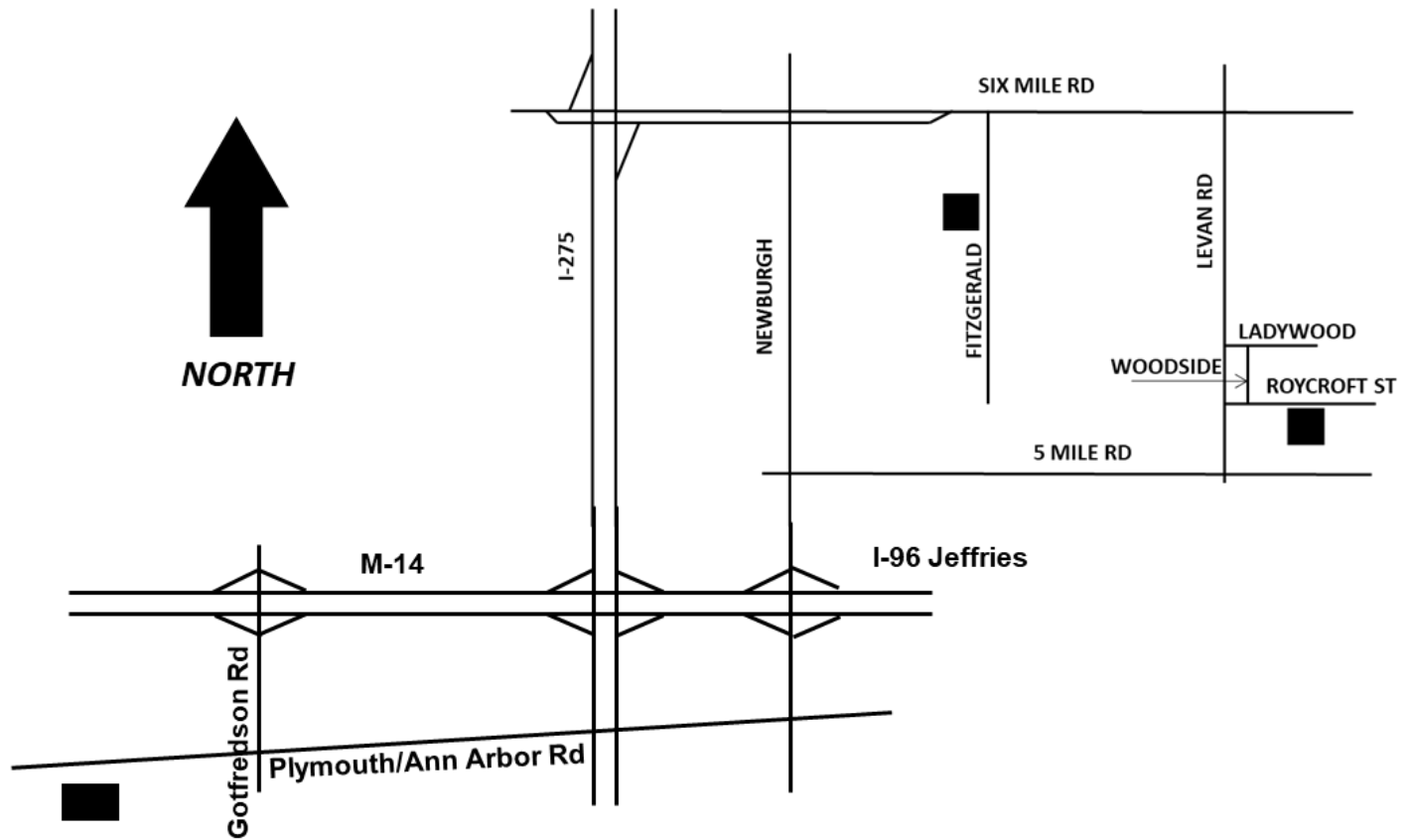
While attending the recent Division 6 Train Sale at the Costick Center, one of my observations was that a major portion of the tables and attendees were focused, not just on O or S gauge, but Lionel and American Flyer. Probably 30% if not more of the table space! Yet probably less than 10% of our regular members and meeting attendees are interested in O scale, and almost none in S. That led me to wonder just why we have contact with those Lionel folks but virtually none of those working or attending the show appear to be interested in, or particularly aware of our club and what we offer.

To me that makes no sense. How can we have that many people, that entire Lionel, etc., segment, that we have been almost totally unable to get interested in in being members? Granted they typically are not the folks focused on either realism or operating sessions, but a large portion of what we talk about at our meeting SHOULD be of interest to them anyway! Just ask Marian or Nick.

Talk about an empty manifest and a missed delivery. I'd like to hear suggestions on how we get this significant membership market to become more interested in what we do, other than us giving them a place to only buy and sell stuff. Why is that particular group so under represented at our meetings, and how do we fix that? If we do nothing more than tap into that group and get just 10 members this year, that will dramatically increase our attendance! Let me hear your thoughts.

Byrne

**DIVISION 6 – Motor City Division**  
**LAYOUT TOURS**  
**Saturday, March 11 12pm-4pm**



<p>Pierre Willermet          36123 Roycroft          Livonia, Mich. 48154</p>	<p>HO Standard Gauge          Freelanced, Designed for operation, HO 20' x 25', scenery is 80% completed and controlled by CVP-DCC Radio throttles. Running on the system are many sound equipped steam and diesel locomotives!</p>
<p>Michael Tranquilla          16823 Fitzgerald St          Livonia, Mich. 48154</p>	<p>HO Standard Gauge - Burlington Pacific          The Burlington Pacific is a steam and diesel era layout with continuous operation, with 1 branch line. Modeled from the 1950' to the 1980's with scratch-built structures in all five towns</p>
<p>Larry Wolohon, MMR          8984 Plymouth Road          Plymouth Twnshp, Mich. 48170</p>	<p>O scale 2 rail layout - Southern Pacific          Modeling the late '40's era, mostly steam powered, on a branch line. The layout is roughly 22' X 36', control is NCE DCC, roughly 42 turnouts using Fastraks templates, center peninsula includes a 28" turntable &amp; roundhouse with working interior lights. I have had help from the Car Knockers, especially the late Marty LaForte, the Tuesday Night group, especially Ron King, the Midnight Pocatello Yardmasters, Ken Chick.</p>

**Division 6 -NCR -NMRA  
42167 Ridge Road West  
Novi, MI 48375**