

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

ON THE RAILS...

APRIL 2023

Happy Spring! With Spring here, it's time for that annual message- as the weather gets better and more rail-fanning takes place, let's be careful out there and be safe and off of Railroad property! Enjoy your picture taking!

BUT... don't give-up on model railroading either! That is truly a year-round hobby and deserves as much time as we can give to it. We hope you are getting your time in!

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 38 attending, plus 4 on zoom! We had one new guest, please welcome Mark Justice. MMR's present were Larry Wolohon, Scott Kremer, Ken Chick 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, APRIL 21, 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 NEW SECRETARY

The Division 6 Board of Directors has appointed Bruce Wolff as our Recording Secretary. Bruce will keep meeting minutes and keep track of proposals and votes. Ed Beamish remains on the Board as our Division 6 webmaster, mailing of newsletter and member roster.

NEW NEWSLETTER POLICY

Even though we have a decent amount in our treasury, it is not something that should be spent at will. We have been mailing this newsletter out to near 30 members a month. That equals near \$600 a year! Many of those members have an active email, so they should be getting the newsletter in that fashion. The Div 6 Board has decided this will be the policy going forward, starting in May. Only those without an email address will get a mailed newsletter. This should reduce that amount to 10 or less members.

***** THIS APRIL NEWSLETTER
WILL BE THE LAST ONE MAILED
TO THE 30 ON THE LIST! *****

DIV 6 MODEL RR SALE

Terry and Barry have had a meeting with Farmington Hills people about a possible new location for the sale. This would be a bigger venue which will allow more tables and all in one room. They hope to have a full report at the April Div 6 meeting.

SHOW AND TELL

Our subject was **railroad cars related to the auto industry!**

Here's what was shared - Reading RR 50' box car with DF markings from Plymouth Michigan; Athearn 86' 8 door boxcar GT; brass 4 door auto car X32 PRR; N scale 1.5 door boxcar SP; tractors on flat car; Walthers 85' autorack Conrail; GT 4 door auto boxcar; O scale PM auto boxcar; O scale 40' auto boxcar Milwaukee Rd; G scale NYC 50' 4 door auto boxcar; CB&Q auto parts boxcar; Army trucks on flat car; Conrail steel coil car; Walthers auto rack car; tri-level DTI auto rack open; N scale 40' auto box car Lehigh Valley; PM auto boxcar 4 door; ATSF 86' auto boxcar

Current projects - Bill Deeter brought in box of Covered hoppers - frogs in a box!



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

NEXT MEETING - frozen food cars or refrigerator cars

DIV 6 TREASURY REPORT

March Treasure's Report- Our balance is \$5318.84. This balance includes the paypal amount and a few expenses for mailing/printing the last newsletter. We also have a petty cash amount of \$40. 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 Norm Logan. Norm showed us how to build "bullet-proof" trees! Norm's presentation (and available in the HotBox) showed how to use floral wire, static grass and Super Leaves to make trees that are not delicate to handle. When operators are over to run your layout, again, these trees are robust enough to be knocked by accident and keep their shape! Norm did a hands-on too at the meeting, passing out the basic wire and supplies to start the tree frame. The foliage will have to be supplied by the members on their own time. Norm also had a hand-out of the list of materials needed. Norm also showed a second version of making trees using "tag wire", very similar to the first version of twisting several wires together to make branches. Great stuff and something anyone can do! Thanks Norm for another very interesting clinic!

NEXT MEETING- Bill McMillan on static grass and grass tufts!

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. The March tours went well! Attended by many.... good conversations from the visitors! NEED tours for April.... or May....

NEXT TOURS- ????

SUPERINDEPENDENT CORNER

I am composing these thoughts on March 29, and I see a pretty snowfall outside my window. It is rather light and fluffy - but still snow! I thought it was Spring, but then I remembered that we live in Michigan. Just a few weeks ago on a very nice Saturday afternoon, I toured 3 Division 6 member's layouts. They were great! The level of craftsmanship, artistry and railroad knowledge was fantastic.

Larry Wolohon, MMR, is in the process of building this layout. Larry works in O scale 2 rail and has constructed about 42 turnouts for this layout.



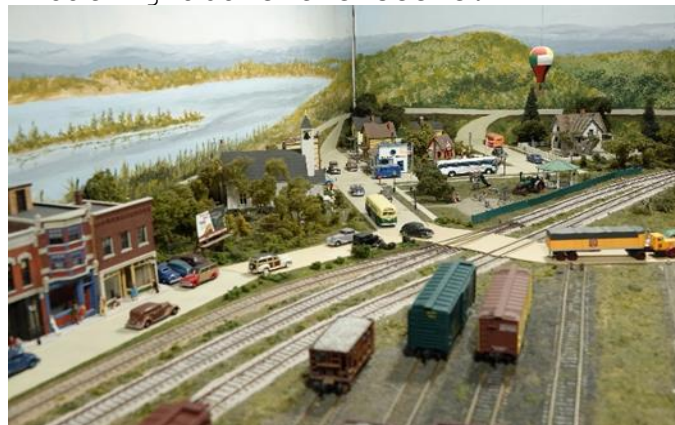
Above is pictured his lighted roundhouse that is adjacent to his 28" turntable. Larry is also serving as our Layout Tour chairperson.

Next, we have **Pierre Willermet's** layout. He models standard HO gauge. Pierre is a master of layout and scenic design. This structure actually "dumps" sand into the cars below the chute. Pierre has several wonderful dioramas within this spacious layout.



Above is one of Pierre's city dioramas. In the back you can see the 5627, 5025 & 5626 passing through town.

Michael Tranquilla was the third Layout Tour on the schedule. He models in standard HO gauge and has 5 towns along the route. One of my favorite (it would be difficult to pick just one!) towns is because of the hot air balloon floating above the scene.



Thanks go out to Larry, Pierre and Michael for sharing their layouts with us. There is an abundance of talent in Division 6, NCR, NMRA and I urge the rest of you to participate in one of our future Layout Tours!

See you in April, Paul Lichau

RAILROAD HISTORY

John Bopp was not present at the meeting so he'll give another lesson in April. Thanks John, we're looking forward to another lesson soon!

PRODUCT REVIEW

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

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
248-478-4104 brucewolff@yahoo.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

Webmaster- Ed Beamish 734-266-2301
phoenixblade70@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

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

BILL'S TOOL TIME

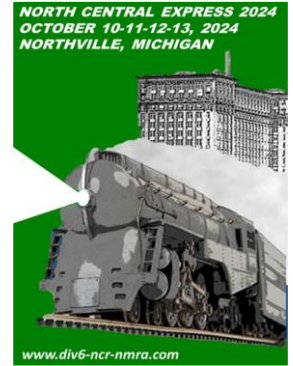
Terry Kosmas will coordinate tips from the membership. If you have a tool tip to give, please contact Terry and he'll get you scheduled. We're looking forward to more tips soon.

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 - NCR CONV 2024 !!!

The convention is **Oct 10-13, 2024**. Our site is Ward Church in Northville. 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 These products were shown at the March meeting... soon to be in stock at Nankin Hobby....



Intermountain has just announced that they are starting production on these and several similar size tankers. AFC type 27 Riveted 8000 and 10000 gallon tank cars - sharp painting & lettering, metal wheel sets, knuckle couplers, seven paint schemes each. We are putting in orders for some, but if anyone is interested in securing some we can special order for them too.

NCR CHARITY DONATION?

While the idea of a donation to the people of East Palestine, Ohio was nixed (for legal reasons), Mike Cipko, Superintendent of Div 2 (Tip of the Mitt) sent out an email and collected donations from anyone that wanted to donate. He collected many checks and sent them to "The Way Station" a local food bank program. A letter went with the donations saying they were from model railroaders!

DIV 6 - RR HUMOR

Here's some model railroad humor-



**It's never too late to have
a happy childhood.**

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!!

AP CERTIFICATES

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

NEW DIV 6 EQUIPMENT

The Div 6 Board of Directors proposed replacing our laptop and projector at the March meeting. Some discussion was held and the Div 6 membership approved \$1500 to be spent to replace these two items. These were to be purchased asap and we should have them for the April Div 6 meeting. Thanks!

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!

DIV 6 MI-TRACK LAYOUT

We don't have another event to attend until August, when we may return to the Southern Michigan RR Days. So please keep working on your module(s)! How many module owners would be available for a daytime session? We can check with the Senior Center to see if a room is available and if any costs would be charged. Perhaps a date in late April would be possible? Let BARRY know if you would be available.

LOCAL RR EVENTS

Saturday's - April 22; May 6, 20

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
Phone: 734-426-5100-Wed Evenings
734-426-0829-Answering Machine
info@a2trainshow.com

Saturday & Sunday - April 22-23-

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 welcome)

Saturday, April 15 - Greater
Grand Rapids Spring Train Show
Wyoming, MI - HSB, Inc.
Jim Cunningham 616-540-0421

Saturday, April 29 - Muskegon
Railroad Historical Society Model
RR and Hobby Expo Cardinal
Elementary School, 2310 Marquette
Ave., Muskegon, MI 10am-2pm \$5
admission with under 10 free
working layouts and displays, food
concessions available Mike Wood
231-670-0751 6ftwoody@comcast.net

Saturday-Sunday, May 6-7 -

Blue Water Train & Swap Show
5078 Lapeer Rd, Kimball, MI 48074
10am-4pm \$5 admission with under
11 free Operating layouts, books,
free parking, railroadianna, hobby
supplies, track, food available
Geoff Hering 810-531-4975

FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP

Mark Ellis is heading up a Team of
Div 6 members that are looking at
our annual FALL SHOW & WORKSHOP
event. The event has not produced
the results we want... some money
for the account and new members.
The Team is meeting and discussing
changes to dates, locations,
substance, displays, etc. If you
have any suggestions or ideas,
please get those to Mark ASAP for
the Team can give them
consideration.

**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**

NMRA INTERCHANGE

By now you have seen or heard
about the announcement of the NMRA
Interchange. The Interchange will
provide an online space for our
members to collaborate, learn,
exchange ideas and information,
and chat about all things model
railroading. The NMRA Interchange
will connect you with members from
across the NMRA using voice and
text chat. The "Hangout Rooms" are
available for video conversations
anytime without the need to pre-
schedule. The NMRA Interchange
uses the Discord platform, which
is available through a web browser
like Microsoft Edge or Google
Chrome. You can also download the
Discord desktop application or the
Discord mobile app for your
smartphone and/or tablet. The
software works on iOS, MacOS,
Windows, Linux, and Android. You
can download the Discord
application from here:

<https://discord.com/download>.

You can register for Discord and
the NMRA Interchange at:

[https://www.nmra.org/nmra-
interchange](https://www.nmra.org/nmra-interchange)

THE OBSERVATION CAR

Pictures and pictures! I'm sure most of us with layouts have probably had visitors from outside the hobby react by grabbing their phone and taking random pictures. I recently had the experience of looking over and seeing six people lined up with flashes all going off at the same time, like a scene of paparazzi at a movie premier. That's great, but we often don't help them really understand what they are seeing, and what we do, since we likely aren't actively pointing out specific vignettes or scenes that really are about telling a story. To them it's pretty scenery, realistic buildings, and trains moving around the layout. If we really want to help them truly enjoy the experience, we need to take a moment to help them see that we are really trying to tell a story or a series of stories, so they can connect with it.

For example, I created a scene from my youth showing two friends pushing a broken-down car, i.e. the exact '59 Plymouth Fury, and then '58 Imperial, my friends and I had to push, more than once. Another is the building, not just a photo realistic building, but the one my dad worked at, and nearby, the one Peg's dad worked at, as well as the RDC I spent time riding on my way to my uncle's house every Thanksgiving. We should let our guests know we are usually not just showing a layout, but telling a story, and a personal one at that.

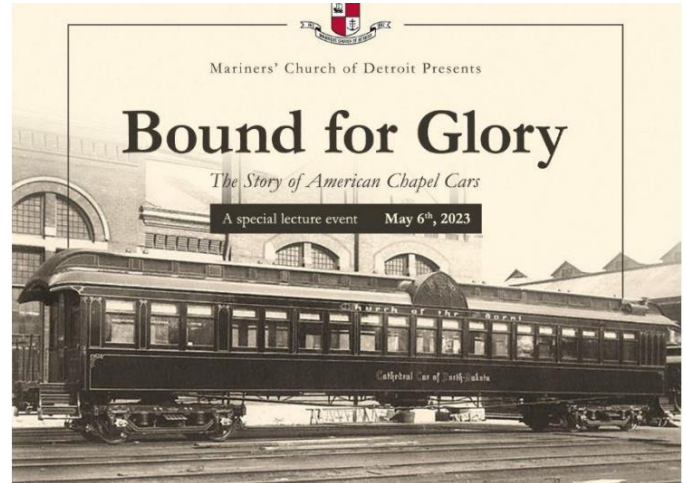
So next time you have guests over, start by telling them your story, so they get photos they can probably personally identify with and enjoy. Not just photos of your train room.

Let me hear your thoughts.

Byrne

SPECIAL RR LECTURE

Dan Lewis, MMR from Div 8, will be doing a special presentation on May 6th. This special lecture will be in downtown Detroit at Mariner's Church on the history of American Chapel Cars. Mariner's Church is located at 170 E Jefferson Ave. Detroit, MI See the information below for more details....



Mariners' Church of Detroit Presents

Bound for Glory

The Story of American Chapel Cars

A lecture from biblical scholar, Dan Lewis

Saturday, May 6th

10 am - 11:30 am

Refreshments following

Share with a friend & RSVP at

<https://marinerschurchofdetroit.org/lecture>

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