

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, JANUARY 19, 2024**. 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 TREASURY REPORT

Tonight's TREASURY REPORT is Treasure Report for December.
Beginning balance \$2671.51.
Checks/Debits were \$188.26 and
deposits/Credit was \$1525.00.
December ending balance \$4,008.25
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!

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year!! Yes, 2024 has arrived and what will it bring? Hopefully lots of great model railroading fun for all of us and our friends. OPS sessions, work sessions, meetings and gatherings, train shows and sales... there is lots to hope for! Of course, the BIG one is our own Div 6 hosted convention - NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024 in October!

But... before we get into all of those, there is another event of our own... the 3rd annual Div 6 Model Railroad Sale event! Please see the last pre-event report just a page or two away! We are "on track" for another great event!

Please note - there is a column in this newsletter that tells you of some important policy changes in our Division. Please read that through so you're informed!

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 37 attending, plus 7 on zoom! We had two new guests, Please welcome Sandra Baster and Ken Lazzo. This was their first Div 6 meeting as NMRA members! MMR's present were Bill Neale, Ken Chick, Larry Wolohon, Ron King, Scott Kremer, Jim Zinser and Brook Qualman (online). To all Div 6 members and guests, WELCOME ABOARD!

DIV 6 MODEL RR SALE

IT'S ALMOST HERE!! GET READY!! SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 COSTICK CENTER, FARMINGTON HILLS 10AM-3PM Early-bird at 9am Vendor set-up starts at 7am We have been sold out of tables since mid-November! We are the ONLY true model railroad event in SE Michigan in January! Pray for good weather!! WE NEED YOUR HELP!! We still need TWO volunteers!! The jobs that need filled are -

Snack/test track/Div 6 info from 12:30-3pm

Hallway Director from 12pm-3pm If you can do one of these jobs, contact BARRY or TERRY ASAP! Vendor tables have been assigned and emails or letters have gone out to all vendors with their instructions and table numbers. Our last bit of advertising will come at the Novi show the week before, where we'll have flyers, \$1 off coupons and reminders that Veterans get in FREE! THANKS to all that are supporting this important event for Division 6!! Let's have a great sale event!

DIV 6 MI-TRACK LAYOUT

As of this newsletter publicationattending the Novi Train show with the layout is in question!! We have only received 4 responses and only 3 of those would be attending. That does not give us a complete layout... only sections to run trains back and forth. Please check your email and respond ASAP so we can make the proper plans... or cancel!

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 SYMPATHIES

It with great sadness that we report that **Bill Neale, MMR** passed away on Thursday, Dec 28th during surgery. Bill went into the hospital about a week before with several concerns



that progressed faster than the doctors could handle. Bill modeled the PRR and his layout was an amazing example of operations, scenery and mechanics. Bill was always willing to help others with problems and advice to solve problems. Always a happy model railroader, Bill also served on the NMRA National Board as Central Director for 6 years. He was an NMRA member for over 50 years and was MMR #480. Prayers to his wife and family. He will be missed by everyone! There will be a Celebration of Life this spring.

SHOW AND TELL

Our subject was **FLAT CARS WITH LOADS!** Here's what was shared -OOPS - sorry, I was taken away for an important phone call and didn't get to record the models shown. They all looked great though!!

We did have some members that contributed to the caboose! The winner of the Nankin Hobby gift card was - Glenn Joppich!

NEXT MEETING - the annual - What you got for Christmas/Holiday, model railroading related!

NEW BOARD MEMBER?

It was announced by Recording Secretary Bruce Wolff was resigning from the Div 6 Board of Directors due to personal reasons. Thus, we are looking for a volunteer to step-up and take his place. Please contact a Board member if you are interested!

DIV 6 - RR HUMOR

Here's some model railroad humor-Here's what I'm talking about... drag-racing locos! Cool!!



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!

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

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- Te<mark>rry Kosm</mark>as 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 -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- 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

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!! 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!

NEXT TOURS- We do not have tours for January. THANKS to Rick Neibert, Tom Kosta and Barry Hensel for the December tours!

PRODUCT REVIEW

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

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!

DIV 6 IMPORTANT INFO

There was a few important decisions and discussions held at the last Division 6 meeting. Here is a report on those....

ZOOM The issue is if we should continue to use Zoom during the Div 6 meetings. During a Board meeting, it was voted to stop using Zoom, but then it was decided to bring this up for discussion with the membership. Zoom costs about \$190/year. We usually get 2-3 members on Zoom per meeting. Reasons for dropping Zoom were because of costs, low demand and problems in getting it running in a timely manner every meeting. Reasons cited for keeping Zoom were that it allows members and anyone to participate if they are away or in case of bad weather. It is inviting people to attend and participate in our meetings, even if limited a bit. AFTER A MOTION AND VOTE, IT WAS DECIDED BY THE MEMBERSHIP TO KEEP ZOOM FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE YEAR. Another evaluation will take place after that time.

MEMBER IN-ACTIVE POLICY In the one page newsletter passed out during the annual Fall Show, it was stated that if a member does not attend 3 consecutive meetings, they would be made in-active and not receive the newsletter. This was our policy for most of

Division 6's history, mainly because we were mailing via US mail, the newsletter to all members. It was felt that if a member was no longer interested that we should not spend the money to keep them informed. There was two ways around this policy - to simply inform the Board that an extended absence would happen, or to provide Div 6 the required postage to continue receiving the newsletter. With the newsletter now being emailed to most everyone, this policy was really out-of-date and should have been reviewed a few years ago. Some comments for keeping the policy was that even with email, if a NMRA member is not interested in us, why should we keep the effort of trying to keep them informed. It was noted that since May 2023, over 80 extra NMRA members have been receiving the newsletter and have not contacted us in any way or attended a meeting. Reasons for removal of the policy was that we should be inviting to all NMRA members that are in our Division 6 boundaries, whether they attend meetings or not. Emails cost nothing to send, so we should send them to all. AFTER A MOTION AND VOTE, THIS POLICY HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

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 Mark Ellis on flat car loads! Mark had a great PPT presentation showing many aspects of RR loads and history. It appears that the flat car was the first freight car to be invented! Mark showed the many loads he has made for flat cars for his railroad. He told us of some of the tips/hints of how to do the loads and secure them to the cars. Mark also showed many prototype cars and loads. Great information! Thanks Mark!!

NEXT MEETING- TBD.....

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**.

SUPERINDENDENT CORNER

As I looked at the first draft of this issue of "OTR," I noticed that Barry chose a snowplow locomotive graphic. (Barry chooses a different railroad graphic for each issue!) That means it must be Winter in Michigan and with it a New Year.

Do you make New Year Resolutions? Do you keep them? Over my many years I have made many resolutions. Early on, the resolutions were too big to realistically keep and usually I failed. Then I started making small resolutions and I found that I could keep them (at least longer.)

I would like to see each of our members (over 120 of you) resolve to do at least one thing for Division 6 that you haven't done recently. Here are some possibilities:

** Attend a few Div 6 meetings - either in person or via ZOOM.

** Help at a Div 6 event (they are listed in this newsletter) ** Recruit a new member ** Offer to drive a current member, that can't drive, to a meeting ** Host a Layout Tour ** Present a clinic (just 10-15)

minutes) at a meeting, on any railroad topic ** Help set up or tear down at a

meeting

What will you do to be more involved with your Division 6?

The Executive Board has decided to move our website to a new host - with the North Central Region. Control of the site will be with a couple of people in Division 6, and they will be responsible for keeping the site current with our publications and activities. This change will not take place until mid - late February and we will let everyone know when it is active and how to log on.

All members and friends of Division 6 were saddened by the news that William (Bill) Neale, MMR, passed away recently during surgery. Bill was a friend of all model railroaders and was a loyal member of the NMRA. I have had many responses to my earlier posting. They expressed how much Bill meant to them and that he will greatly missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill's family.

You can also email me at <u>Plichau@yahoo.com</u> with any thoughts. Paul

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.

RAILROAD HISTORY

John Bopp was at the December meeting, but we did not have time for a lesson. We're looking forward to another lesson soon!

THE OBSERVATION CAR

When someone asks you what your hobby is, do you have your "elevator pitch" ready?

For those of you not familiar with the term "elevator pitch", it's a famous business term that says, if you were to step onto an elevator at work with a company top executive, could you give him or her a 30 second description of what you are working on, just why it's so important to so many people, and what it's in it for the person listening.

Someone asked me the other day what was keeping me busy and happy in retirement, and I only had a minute to give him a worthy answer. It got me thinking about how most of us would have a ready and very concise pitch that might quickly get someone new to our hobby interested in checking what it was all about. Could most of us get someone both aware and then interested in or curious about what we spend so much time on, and why do we get so much out of it, in less than 30 seconds?

So, while you are in the middle of something on your layout, or when you go to an operating session, think about what you might be ready to say to someone, to get the message across in 30 seconds or less.

My pitch now is "I keep myself really enjoying creating or operating scale model railroad layouts that let me create detailed versions of the real thing and replicate their operations. Not only am I enjoying creating these model versions, but I get to learn all sorts of new and challenging skills I never thought I could master, like building and weathering structures, learning woodworking skills for all the benchwork, electronics for all the operations, creating realistic scenery and backdrops, and lots of problem solving. This thing REALLY gives my brain and my body a workout every day. You should look at visiting a layout or an operating session, if you would

like to try it out a bit, not to mention making lots of new friends. It's a VERY, VERY social hobby."

If you can get your pitch down to 30 seconds, you stand a good chance of creating new members for the hobby and the division, when you spot the opportunity. Now put your "elevator pitch" together! Byrne



DIV 1 ONE DAY EVENT

The website is

https://smm.ncrnmra.org/ and will be updated regularly as plans come together.

We are planning a different kind of event for March and following the KISS (keep it simple stupid) principle. It will be one day so overnight stays are not required for most and costs can be low. We are even doing cash at the door to keep things as simple as possible. Pre-registration is available and recommended but payment will still be expected upon arrival. We hope everyone finds this mini convention fun and informative.

FYI, formal operations could not be included in a single day event but several of the home layouts are taking names for future op sessions to be scheduled. This allows participants to preview layouts and be invited back for a future session. There is a plan to have some limited operations at the venue (like a mini roadshow). More details will be available. See the flyer later in this newsletter!

DIV 6 SYMPATHIES

The Division 6 membership wishes to express our deepest sympathies to the members of Div 8 and the family of member Ed Black, MMR, who passed in mid-December.

The Division 6 membership also wishes to express our deepest sympathies to the members of Div 3 and the family of member John Reitz, MMR, who passed in late December. John is credited with the revitalization of Division 3 several years ago.

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*

LOCAL RR EVENTS

NEW - Saturdays and Sundays -Jan 13-14, 27-28; Feb 10-11, 24-25, 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) -\$8 Ages 5-17- \$4 Kids under 5 years - FREE 248-613-9471 www.chi-townunionstation.com/

Saturday's - Jan 6; 20; Feb 3; 17, 2024 Redford Model RR Club Open House 27316 Michigan Ave Inkster, MI 11am-5pm FREEdonations accepted Accepting new members! HO scale 56'x26' layout, DCC, single and double track mainlines www.redfordmrrc.org

Saturday & Sunday - Jan. 13-14; Jan. 27-28; Feb. 24-25 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 See several O scale trains in operation, over a 350 foot double track mainline and branch lines. 248-634-5811 webmaster@dmrrc.org

Saturday & Sunday - Jan. 20-21, Feb. 24-25, 2024 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)

Saturday-Sunday, January 20-21, 2024 - Model RR Exhibit, RR Memorabilia, Toy Train Show and Sale Suburban Collection Showplace 46100 Grand River Ave Novi, MI 48374 parking \$10! 10am-4pm Adults \$11 (\$1 more if purchased on-site) Kids 11 and under are Free

http://GreatTrainShow.com

Saturday, February 4, 2024 - Ole Toy & Train Show Monaghan KofC 19801 Farmington Rd, Livonia, MI 11am-3pm. Admission is \$3/person \$6/family \$10/early birds 10:30am Operating layouts, Video movies, trains tested, Free Parking, Food available. Handicap accessible. Contact Info: Brian Klotzer 313-255-0466 7pm-9pm only please or Greg- club2690@gmail.com



North Central Region Spring Modelers Meet

Hosted by the Black Swamp Division (Div 1) of the North Central Region (NCR), NMRA

March 23, 2024 - Sylvania OH



Sylvania Community Services Center, 7140 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH 43560

Learn New Skills, Share Your Models, Share Techniques, Visit Layouts



This is a modelers' event! Lunch options will be available on-site!



This event is open to ALL MODELERS - NMRA Membership is not required

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Model Showroom – Bring your models (finished or in-progress) of locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, or scenery. All are welcome! The showroom is about sharing the hobby in all its many forms.

Modeling Clinics - learn new skills with clinics on a mixture of subjects presented by modelers, historians, and industry experts.

Layouts and Displays - Small and modular displays will be available within the main venue.

Layout Tours - Layout tours of local layouts will be available during the afternoon.

Admission is \$20 at the door

All event activities (minus lunch) are included in one low price!

Advance registration is encouraged on the website at smm.ncrnmra.org



This is NOT a swap meet!

Visit our website for more information smm.ncrnmra.org





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 will be participating in the convention activities.				now many	
Spouse i	s free if ONLY attending layout tours and/or dinner.	Dinner per pe	erson	\$25		
Children under 18 years old are free for the weekend and welcome to attend convention activities with a paid adult.		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		
	olo shirts are 35-65% cotton-poly no pocket shirts, color with the NCX logo embroidered in color on	polo shirt	small	\$32		
the left side NOTE- cut-off date for ordering shirts is			medium	\$32		
	er 10, 2024. There will be NO shirts available nvention!		large	\$32		
			X-large	\$32		
	howcase Discount! ng a model to display in the Showcase room, we		2X-large	\$32		
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!			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 Col Former Autor Territor	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



ZYE84 IM, ivoN 42167 Ridge Road West **ARMU- ROW- 8 noisivid**

Farmington, MI 48336

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!





33350 W Nine Mile Rd

248-919-0040