

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

ON THE RAILS...

MARCH 2024

Hello and welcome to Division 6! We're on a "break" of sorts with no major activities until the NCX convention in October. Let's use this time to spruce-up our layouts if you are on the NCX schedule, hone our clinic skills if we are giving a clinic at the NCX convention, or try to decide what job you can volunteer for to help the NCX run as the best convention in the North Central Region! It's OUR turn to be host... so let's be the greatest hosts in the NCR!

With the NCX in October, it was decided to not do a Fall Show & Workshop in November. So we'll have another break later this year.

While some are prepping for the NCX, how about those that are not, keep your layouts honed by hosting a regular monthly Div 6 layout tour? We could certainly use some! Call or email Larry Wolohon to get scheduled! Same for clinics! We could use some monthly clinics at our meetings! Call or email Bill McMillan to get scheduled soon!!

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 42 attending, plus 1 on zoom! We had two new guests! Please welcome Mark Wrase and Keith Bolde. MMR's present were Larry Wolohon, Ron King, Scott Kremer and Jim Zinser. To all Div 6 members and guests, **WELCOME ABOARD!**

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 15, 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 February.

Beginning balance \$2,963.86

February ending balance \$5,529.68

A full report of Checks/Debits and deposits/Credit will be at the next Div 6 meeting.

Thanks, Terry

AP CERTIFICATES

Ken Chick, our AP coordinator, was not present at the last meeting, as he was resting up for a gall bladder operation the following Monday. The operation was successful and Ken has been recovering very well! 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!

DIV 6 MODEL RR SALE

OK... here's the last report on this year's Model RR Sale! IT WAS GREAT!!! We've had many great comments by both vendors and spectators. We're doing very well! We counted the tickets and adding in a guess for spouses and kids, we're looking at very close to 600 people through the door. 71 Veterans were included with that great amount! As to the "bottom line".... after all the income and then all the expenses, our surplus was **\$3428!!** That is an increase of near \$600 from our 2023 event. Once again, a **HUGE THANK-YOU** to all the Div 6 volunteers that helped work the Sale and make it happen!! We'll be starting on plans for 2025 in a few weeks.

DIV 6 MI-TRACK LAYOUT

The Division 6 Mi-Track modular layout is likely to return to the Southern Michigan RR Days in August. Plus, we may display at the NCX Convention at Ward Church.

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- Our next tours are on **Sunday, March 17 - 1pm-5pm** - Ken Chick & Mike Tranquilla. See the map in this *ON THE RAILS*

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 for more tips soon.

PRODUCT REVIEW

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

SHOW AND TELL

Our subject was **DIESEL F UNITS "covered wagons"**! Here's what was shared - Milwaukee Rd A-B N scale; B&O FA-B ho; Southern FTA-B ho; GN F7A ho; RDG Alco FA-B + F7A-B & FP7 ho; Rock Island Alco FA-B and FP7 ho; UP FA-B ho; CN FP9 ho; GN FA-B ho; oops - GP7?; FP7A B&O ho; B&O F7A-B ho; CP F3A G scale; NYC F7 A-B ho; Santa Fe warbonnet F7A ho; GN F7A ho; Copper Valley FA (Cox shell!) ho; SP FA-B ho; 4-6-0 F1 class loco?; Sand Hill & Western (Redford club) FA ho; John Deere F7A ho; PRR FA ho; Lionel diecast Santa Fe F unit approx. S scale; Stewart drive for any of 5 different shells - BN-John Deere-NAPA Valley & 2 more interchanged on one chassis ho; F3A Santa Fe freight scheme ho; GN F3A ho; CP Rail FP7A-B ho; WM F7A-A ho super detailed; Santa Fe freight FA-B ho; C&O F7A ho
Apologies to Gary Hunter, who emailed pictures of his F units and we forgot to present during the meeting.

Current projects - new member Sandra was looking for help to repair Lionel automated signal sheds. She got it!

We did not collect fines in the caboose. There is a proposal to stop that practice, but no action was taken on it at this time.

The winner of the Nankin Hobby gift card was - Bill McMillan!

NEXT MEETING - something weathered - locos, rolling stock, vehicles, structures

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-



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! We're working on all aspects of the event... extra hotel space, clinics, layouts, etc..... We are looking for someone who is going to the Long Beach convention this coming summer, to represent our convention there! If you are planning on going, please contact Scott - skremer@wideopenwest.com



RAILROAD HISTORY

John Bopp was at the February meeting but did not have a history lesson prepared. We're looking forward to another lesson soon!

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-
VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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

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- Bill McMillan 248-349-
7456 wcmillan7456@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

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 a video from Norm Logan on Background Painting Basics. Norm showed the materials needed and the basics of what a background does for your layout. He also showed how he actually painted a section on his layout. This was recorded in 2020 during our covid/no meeting year. GOOD stuff Norm - Thanks! **WE NEED CLINICS!!**

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!

NEW NEWS - a volunteer list will be started very soon and we'll need YOU to take on a job please! Our clinicians are pretty well set and the schedule is being finalized. Layout tours are being scheduled and we're looking to do 5 per day. Heavy Duty publicity to also start asap, and website updating asap too! With a meeting a few weeks ago, most all plans are in place and it's time to execute! We have approx. eight registered so far! There will be OPS sessions for you to enjoy, a RAIL YARD SALE for you to buy/sell stuff and the model display room! 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.

NEW ITEMS IN THE HOBBY

Russ Hjelmberg sends info on new items to share. The best way to contact Russ is by email:

Russatnankin@yahoo.com

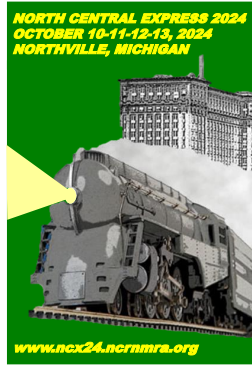
DIV 6 BOOK DEAL

At the Div 6 Sale, we had 2 books donated as door prizes. The book is on NYC Subways and the author is offering a discount to us.

Email onlythebestbooks@yahoo.com

The deal is \$38 with shipping.

Mention Division 6 if you order!



SUPERINDEPENDENT CORNER

Greetings to all members and friends of Division 6. As I write this column, we are experiencing a taste of Spring! It is wonderful to be able to get out and about with just a light jacket or even just shirtsleeves! I just have a feeling that we are going to see "old man Winter" make his presence known before long.

I want to give a huge shout-out to everyone that helped make our 3rd Annual Train Show a big success. We had a large number of volunteers working different positions and shifts to make everything run so smoothly. A special "Thank You" goes out to Barry and Terry that work so hard all year to make this sale so great. I heard many folks that were walking out (with their bags full of purchases) saying "This was the best show I have ever been to! I'll be back next year." The vendors were also complementary about the event. They were saying that next year "I'll have to bring more product to sell!"

We can all rest a bit before our October NCR Convention however, the committee will be working to be sure that our reputation as a great host can continue.

Please plan to visit our next layout tour on Sunday, March 17 - 1pm-5pm - Ken Chick & Mike Tranquilla. See the map in this issue of On The Rails.

Please look at the page about the Division 1 - Blank Swamp - "Modelers Meet." Get a carload of modelers and head south for a great day of clinics & fellowship. See you on Friday March 15 (the Ides of March)! You can also email me at Plichau@yahoo.com with any thoughts. 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

THE OBSERVATION CAR

I've recently seen discussions that could impact our hobby. The first topic is going to be a very painful one. We all know a good amount of our engines, rolling stock and structures are coming from China. If you are not aware, it's said that the total population of China will be down by near 50% by the end of THIS decade! Not only are manufacturers running out of people to assemble products, but they are having trouble getting the electronics that may go with them. As we all know, when there is a shortage of employees/parts, costs increase.

China is already no longer the lowest cost provider in many categories, which is why many manufacturers are shifting to Mexico and Vietnam. It's been said, "If you're wanting new tech items, better get them in the next 2 years! After that, you either won't be available, or it will cost a lot more" The lesson here: If that engine, cars, or structures you are thinking about comes from China, do not put off getting it. Hopefully our favorite vendors are getting ahead of this game, or they will be gone! That's a good reason to buy it NOW!

The second was the understanding that during the pandemic many people went looking for a hobby, including model railroading, to keep them occupied with their increased time at home. It may or may not be obvious to us locally, but that would potentially explain the vastly increased number of successful supplier start-ups we are seeing. SOMEBODY is ordering all the new product & technology, and any shrinking number of people in the hobby would not account for this. Even NMRA membership and interest levels aren't dropping recently. We just need to focus on increasing membership in that new stay-at-home hobbyist arena. This is especially the case where the new technology like 3D printing, laser cutting, and electronics are drawing increased interest. They are out there now! Byrne

NCR-DIV 1 ONE DAY EVENT

Division 1 is hosting a one day event on March 23, 2024. Visit the website - <https://smm.ncrnmra.org/> as it will be updated regularly as plans come together. See the flyer a few pages away....

We are planning a different kind of event for March and following the KISS (keep it simple stupid) principle. Pre-registration is available and recommended but payment will still be expected upon arrival. We hope everyone finds this mini convention fun and informative. See the flyer later in this newsletter!

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!

July 14 - 19, 2025
www.nmra2025.org

STATION No. VI

2025 NMRA

Novi, MI

BIG low price for everyone!!
NMRA National Convention

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

LOCAL RR EVENTS

Saturdays and Sundays - March 9-10 and 23-24, 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 11am to 5pm - Adults (18 and over)- \$8 Ages 5-17- \$4 Kids under 5 years - FREE 248-613-9471 www.chi-townunionstation.com/

Saturday's - March 2,16,30 2024 Redford Model RR Club Open House 27316 Michigan Ave Inkster, MI 11am-5pm FREE- donations accepted Accepting new members! HO scale 56'x26' layout www.redfordmrrc.org

Saturday & Sunday - March 9-10, 23-24 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

Saturday & Sunday - March 23-24, 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)

Sunday, March 10, 2024 - Greater Toledo Toy & Train Show Owens Community College 30335 Oregon Rd., Perrysburg, OH 11am-3pm Randy Ramsey 419-215-4181 Toledotoymasters@gmail.com

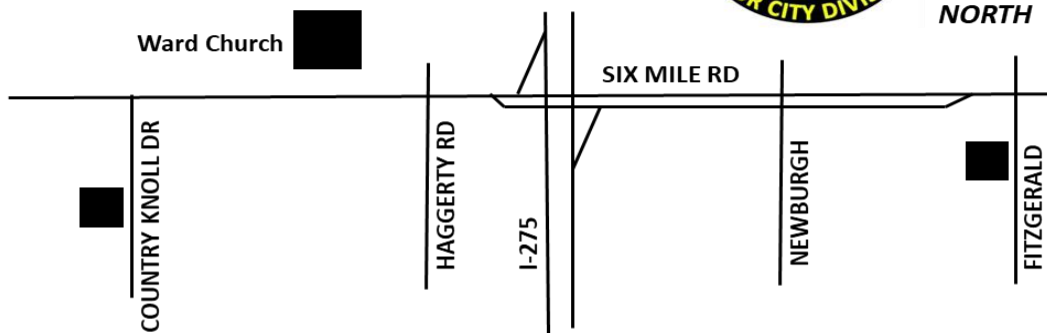
Saturday, March 16 - Taylortown Model RR show - 22525 Ecorse Rd, Taylor, MI 48180 10am-3pm \$5 admission - kids free! For more info - Mike - 313-955-5523

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - 41st Mid-Michigan Model Train Show Comfort Inn & Suites 2424 South Mission St, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 Hosted by- Saginaw River Valley Model RR Club Keven Stresman 989-233-4644 kstresman@gmail.com

Saturday, March 30 - Lincoln Park Train Club Train Show JFK Memorial Bldg 3240 Ferris Lincoln Park, MI 11am-3pm \$5 admission, early-bird at 10am \$10 For more info - Bob Adler 734-675-5712 10am-10pm; Darrell Hicks 734-624-1462 6pm-10pm;

Saturday, April 06, 2024 - Spring Swap Meet Kalamazoo, MI Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds Expo South 10am-3pm \$5 admission, under 10 free David Hayes-Moats 269-344-0906 kaltrainshow@kalnet.net

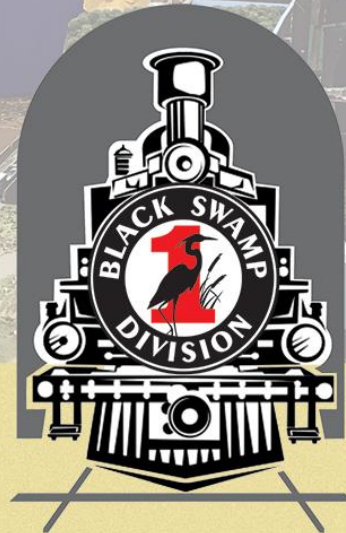
DIVISION 6 – Motor City Division LAYOUT TOURS Sunday, March 17, 2024 1pm-5pm



| | |
|---|---|
| Michael Tranquilla 16823 Fitzgerald St Livonia, Mich. 48154 | 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 |
| Ken Chick, MMR 16657 Country Knoll Dr Northville, MI 48167 | N Standard Gauge - Danforth Hadley & Northern The DH & N is a large point-to-point railroad designed for operation with two large yards and a large engine facility. It features long runs through beautiful scenery and 12 cities on a 400' main line. Based on the Northern Pacific Montana Division operating between Huntley and Garrison, MT. |

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.ncrmra.org



Visit our website for more information
smm.ncrmra.org

This is NOT a swap meet!



Division Six of the
NCR- North Central Region of the
NMRA- National Model Railroad Association presents-



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 | |
| Phone | | Zip | |
| email | | | |
| NMRA No. | Region | Div | MMR |

REGISTRATION FEES

on or before September 25, 2024 - NMRA member
 on or before September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA member
 after September 25, 2024 - NMRA member
 after September 25, 2024 - NON NMRA member
 on or before October 13, 2024

| | how many | |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| One Day Pass = \$40 | \$65 | |
| | \$75 | |
| | \$75 | |
| | \$85 | |

REGISTRATION - is per person for anyone over 18 years 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 - 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

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!

ONE DAY PASS - is for Saturday only and includes all the clinics that day and 5 layout tours.

EXTRA BOARD

| | how many | |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| Dinner per person | \$25 | |
| sweat shirt small | \$34 | |
| medium | \$34 | |
| large | \$34 | |
| X-large | \$34 | |
| 2X-large | \$34 | |
| 3X-large | \$34 | |
| 4X-large | \$34 | |
| polo shirt small | \$32 | |
| medium | \$32 | |
| large | \$32 | |
| X-large | \$32 | |
| 2X-large | \$32 | |
| 3X-large | \$32 | |
| 4X-large | \$32 | |

TOTAL

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

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.ncmmra.org





35101 Ford Rd
Westland, MI 48185
734-722-5700

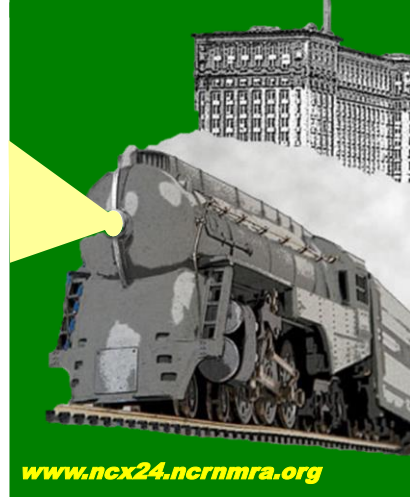
33350 W Nine Mile Rd
Farmington, MI 48336
248-919-0040

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!

**NORTH CENTRAL EXPRESS 2024
OCTOBER 10-11-12-13, 2024
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN**



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