

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

DIV 6 MEETINGS

Our Division 6 meetings are on the **THIRD** Friday of each month and our next Division 6 meeting will be on **FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2007**. The meeting will be held at the Civic Center Senior Center in Livonia, at 5 Mile and Farmington Roads. The meeting is from 7:30pm until 10pm.

DIV 6 MISC NEWS

Here's a message from Div 6 member Jim Fox- I still have more of the foam pieces if you want to put it in the newsletter again. Same deal as last month- free for the taking!

THANKS Jim.. these are 2'x2' bumpy foam pieces that could be used as knee pads for working under the layout, as a soft support for working on models and probably lots of other uses!

Wally announced that on July 19th will be another Detroit-Rouge River Boat tour, but it is starting from Wyandotte. Div 6 member Ken Borg will be the narrator. Cost is \$35 per person. And the last Hart Plaza to Port Huron boat tour will be Aug 30th.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had a new member last month. Please welcome Erwin Locks! Erwin was at the NMRA National LAST year and finally got around to meeting with us. We're glad he did! To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

CLASSIFIED ADS

We are happy to place classified ads for Div 6 members. Donations to the Div of \$2 per ad is requested! And don't forget our "Surplus Table" at every meeting where you can bring in items for sale.

FREE-MO MODELING

Phil Dolittle and Bill Gawthrop with Division 8 are organizing a Freemo group here in the Detroit area. Please keep in touch with Div 6 Clinic Chairman Howard for more information. ALL welcome!

ON THE RAILS...

JULY 2008

WOW... July is here. That means 2008 is just over HALF over!! Wasn't New Years just a few weeks ago?? WOW! With that revelation, also comes the fact that our annual FALL WORKSHOP & SHOW is only 5 months away. And you just know, it will be here much quicker than it sounds! But, while it is summer, I hope you are enjoying the weather (while it's not raining or storming) and any outdoor activities you may be involved in. I also hope, as usual, that you are finding time to do some model railroading during these summer months. Your layout should be run at least weekly, to keep it in good operating order! Now, here's the rest of your Div 6 news-

NEW DIV 6 WEBSITE

The new Div 6 website is up and being updated often. Check it out at- www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

DIV 6 FALL SHOW SQ FT

Here are the rules for the Square Foot contest, to be presented and judged at our annual Fall Workshop-

- ** model any subject, any scale
- ** you must use a 12" x 12" space (NO... it cannot be 6" x 24"!!)
- ** your model must include track

Have fun and get started!

SHOW AND TELL

At the June meeting, we had you bring in something with a DCC module in it. Well, that pretty much amounted to locomotives, as those are what most of us have DCC in. This is a resourceful group and I was hoping someone would bring in something other than a loco with DCC, and we did get one- a rotary snow plow that used the decoder to control the turning of the plow! But, loco's it was and these made their showing- Athearn F3 w/sound; Lionel steamer made to scale; DD40's in GM and undec; Kato F40PH; 2-8-0 Ma & Pa; Bachman Shay w/sound; Rivorassi C&O Alleghany; Proto GP30 in RDG; Atlas RS1; a track speeder!; yard switcher; Soo Line Mikado; street car with 2 decoders w/sound; GN NW3 switcher; and a IHC 4-4-0. We also had some

CURRENT PROJECTS which included an IC box car; the proof of a book co-authored by a Div 6 member; cottage building; PRR covered hopper; railroad books; latest build photos of a layout; HO scale drawings for a building; GM&O coach and engine tender rebuild. We also thank those who donated to the cabooses!

NEXT MEETING- DIV 6 Swap Meet night- you can promote ONE item on your sales table during show & tell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 20- 18th Trains in the Park, St. Bellarmine, Redford

Sunday, Sept 27- Train & Toy Swap United Meth Church, Durand 10-4pm

Sunday, Oct 12- Model Train Flea Mrkt Southgate Civic Ctr 10:30-3pm

Sunday, Oct 26- Trainorama Costick Comm Center, Farmington

Sunday, Nov 9- Lansing Train Show MSU Pavilion 10am-4pm

Sunday, Nov 30- Div 6 Workshop & Show, Livonia Senior Ctr 12noon-4pm

PRODUCT REVIEW

We had no reviews at the last meeting. If you have an item to review, please see Glenn before the meeting starts.

NCR NEWS

I believe we've covered some of this before, but let's put this info out there again, just to be sure - The NMRA came through with a 100% Board vote and did away with the tax from last years national convention. Thus the NCR gets an additional \$4000 (roughly) in revenue! With that, we for see each Division in the NCR getting a share of the total profit from the National convention! This was Jack Watson's first "address" as our new Region President and another Congratulations to him. New NCR news concerns the region magazine - the HOTBOX. Barry Hensel (yes, me!) has been names (volunteered) to be the new Editor of the HotBox. A new issue will be out anytime and Barry will take over for the next regular issue, slated to be out in early August. You will receive 3 issues in print form, then in 2009, the HotBox will be electronic only. This is due to rising costs for printing/mailing. Along with the electronic version, is no more subscription fee and it will be available to all Region members. Much more HotBox info... in the next few issues!

LAYOUT TOURS

For this month, July, we have two very nice layouts that will be open for tours. These are-

A - Milt Moore: 734-676-7774

HO Scale, Approx. size 20'x28', about 80% scenery, Digitrax DCC/DC control. NYC RR and "The Gibraltar Railroad" are the two railroads represented.

B - Steve Kelly: 734-676-0975

HO Scale, Approx. size 12' x 20' two levels, Pennsy on lower level, East Broad Top on upper level. Digitrax DCC control, approx. 20% scenery.

Open House on Sunday July 20, 2008
Time - 1:00PM to 4:00PM

Thinking of hosting a layout tour?, give Dick a call or email if you would like to have your layout on a tour! We would like to have tours all summer long!

NEXT TOUR- July 20th !!!

DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Superintendent- Glenn Joppich
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Webmaster- Ed Beamish
734-266-2301 nedbeam@provide.net
Div 6 Fall Show- Doug Mayer
248-486-0608
Div6workshop@hotmail.com
Meeting Coffee- Walt Plentis
248-535-8063 wwp4343@sbcglobal.net

WHO WE ARE

We are Division 6 of the North Central Region (NCR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). What that means is, the NMRA is the model railroad association for the country (and even world). The country is divided into REGIONS, which are one or more states. Our Region, the North Central Region (NCR), is all of Michigan and the northern part of Ohio and Indiana. Each Region is then divided into DIVISIONS, which are one or more counties. Division 6 is primarily Wayne County, but we have many members from western Oakland County and we aren't strict on membership and boundaries. Oakland and Macomb Counties are Division 8, the Ann Arbor area is Division 9 and a new Division has been formed in the Flint-Saginaw area. All total, there are about 8 Divisions in our Region.

RAILROAD HISTORY

We have another volunteer! Norm Logan has accepted the challenge of being our new Div 6 History Master. Thanks Norm and I'm positive Norm will do a super job!

A note on Don Watson- Don will not be returning to our Div 6 meetings. While he is doing OK, he has his ups and downs, but is still very confused most of the time. He has been moved to the east side, to be closer to his daughter Debbie and his wife Ilene, who is living with Debbie and her family. Here's a note from Debbie-

My father is now at:
Medilodge of Sterling Heights
14151 E. 15 Mile Rd
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
They have open visiting hours, so anytime is alright. Our home phone is 248-349-3347. Thanks for asking and feel free to call my mom anytime. She is home at my house during the day, so I'm sure she would like to hear from you.

Debbie

Lastly, Don's son Rob has promised all of Don's notes and stories to our local model railroad community. We are working to secure these and get copies for our Division, the NCR and probably even the NMRA.

At the June meeting I gave a "history" lesson by showing picture of my trip to the grand opening of the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum. I showed the beginnings our efforts, as the Reading Co Tech & Historical Society has just started this long process of having a museum available to the public. The RCT&HS has over 70 pieces of Reading equipment and is always working on restoring many of these pieces. The pictures showed just about all of our equipment and several towns I got to visit. I actually visited 5 towns that are on my own layout! I hope you enjoyed the pictures and thanks for being patient with the computer problems I had.

NCR REGIONAL CONV '08

Div 1 from Toledo is hosting the 2008 NCR Convention, FAST FREIGHT '08. The dates are September 19-21, 2008. For more information, go to- www.divisiononencr.org/covn2008.htm

or call Fred Lux 734-856-6489 or email Fred at fred@fredlux.com
UPDATE- there was a concern raised at the Div 6 meeting, as it had been reported that the hotel had rented out all of the meeting rooms for the same weekend as the convention. The convention team had addressed this issue and everything is all set and remains AT the hotel as advertised! Whew...!

CLINIC

During the June meeting, Div 6 member Bill Deeter have us all a hand-on lesson on how to make a nifty parking brake for our layouts. Sometimes we cannot have all the tracks flat where we need to do switching. How do you keep the rest of your train from rolling down the hill? A Train Brake between the rails! Some of us use a push pin and while it gets the job done, looks a bit tacky. Bill's train brake takes about 10 minutes to make and another 10 to install. Made of brass tubing and brass rod, or music wire and styrene tubing it is simple to bend and install. We'll post the instructions on the Div 6 website, in case you weren't at the meeting. THANKS Bill for a great solution to a common problem!

If you are willing to do a clinic, please, e-mail or call or see Howard at the meetings and share your thoughts.

NEXT MEETING- ??? with the Div 6 Swap Meet night, we may not have a clinic.

MODELING INFORMATION

I don't remember any questions at the meeting, we did get another email tip from Ken Borg-
** needing small hardware; Threaded and Simulated stuff - check out this website- www.scalehardware.com
We look forward to more questions and tips next month!

NCR-DIV 6 2010 CONV. !!

The North Central Region annual Convention for 2010 will be hosted by us, Div 6!! Some of the committee will be meeting with the local hotels to see what the costs will be for meeting rooms. We have a few more name suggestions-
Livonia Limited (norm)
Livonia Zephyr w/wo 2010 (larry)
City of Livonia w/wo 2010 (larry)
Livonia Arrow w/wo 2010 (larry)
Livonia Cannonball w/wo 2010(larry)

FALL WORKSHOP & SHOW

Gentlemen, am seeking donations for the Fall Workshop Raffle! Look to your excess and support your Division with a GOOD - SERVICEABLE raffle prize! Please do not bring broken/non working items- you would not like it if you won something that does not work or is missing parts! Last Fall we had to refund several attendees their ticket money, because the prizes they won were incomplete or nonfunctional! The object is to keep their money, not return it! Since there will be NO admission charge this year, the only revenue will be from the Raffle!!! Your cooperation is appreciated! Cheers, Jack

RAILROAD HISTORY part 2

We had another History Lesson from our Superintendent Glenn, as he read over an interesting article from a Feb 2000 Trains magazine on Railroad Watches! In this article it talked about a train crash that happened because the two conductors watches were off by several minutes! This led to some strict standards on how watches that railroaders used would be made and tested. These standards were met in 1893 and lasted until 1969, when the last standard railroad watch was sold. And an interesting aside to this is that a train timetable will list who the official time/watch person is! THANKS Glenn for an interesting story and lesson!

NMRA NEWS

Our area Trustee Dave Thornton was at the last Div 6 meeting and told us that he got re-elected as a Trustee. Congratulations to Dave!! He is a great asset to the NMRA and our area! The other big NMRA news was about the recent lawsuit concerning the patent on sound decoders and the NMRA challenge to that patent. Basically, we have prevailed! Here's two reports on that-

Hi, editors, Presidents & Supers
Hopefully everyone has heard about the patent challenge the NMRA made against Real Rail Effects, a company who claimed that it held a patent on the concept of sound decoders. The NMRA made a great case for having the patent re-examined by the Patent Office, and Real Rail Effects was told to respond to the challenge by the end of May. The date came and went with no response from RRE -- a great thing for modelers everywhere. Attached is a press release the NMRA issued today related to this incident. Next time someone asks, "What does the NMRA actually do?" or "What do I get for my money?" this is a perfect answer.

-Gerry Leone, MMR, Deputy Chair
NMRA Membership Services &
Promotion Dept.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 6, 2008

NMRA Patent Challenge Update: Real Rail Effects fails to respond to NMRA DCC-sound patent challenge
The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.

RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.

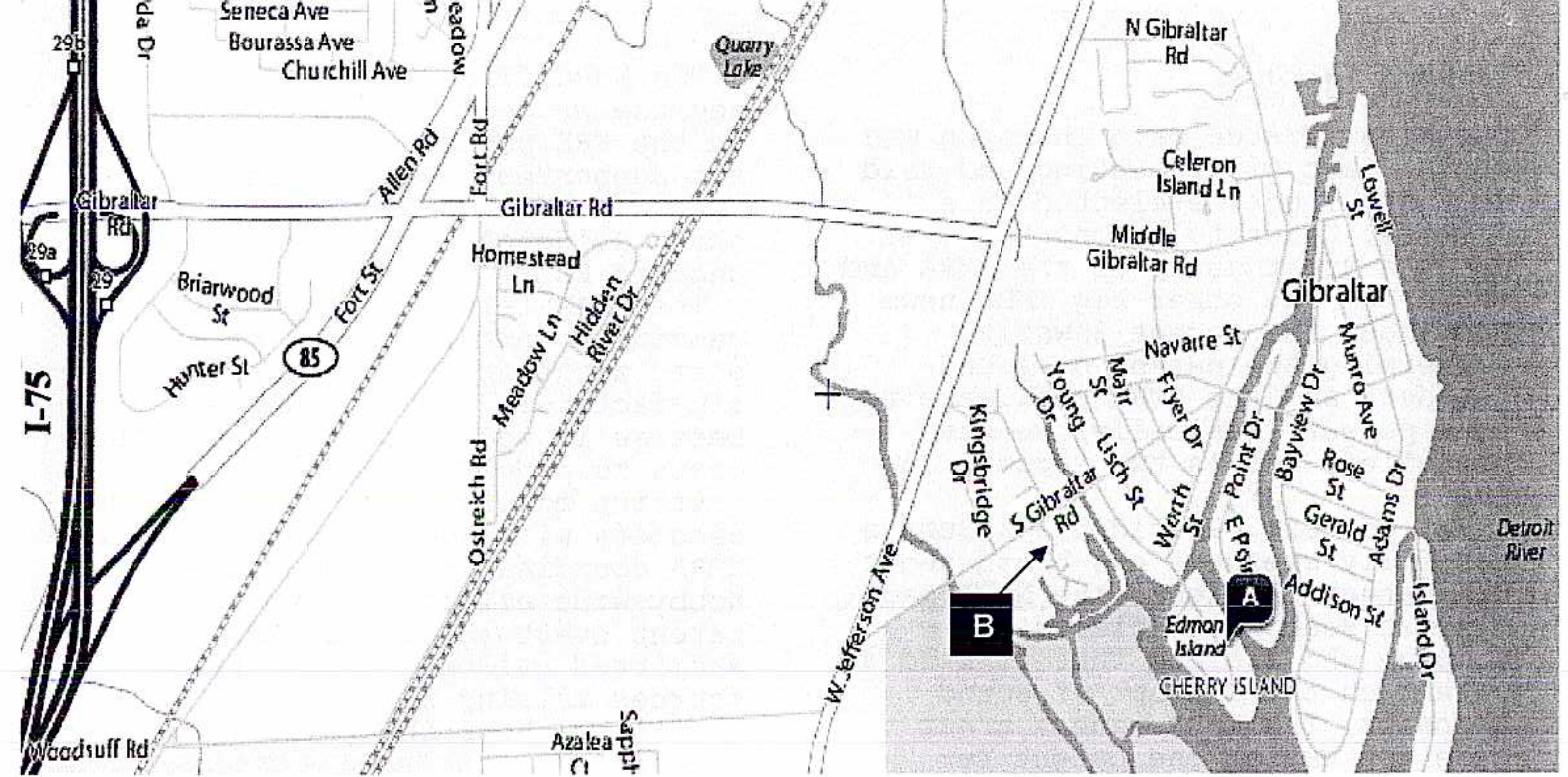
The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

Robert J. Amsler, Jr.
General Counsel, National Model
Railroad Association, Inc.



DIV 6 LAYOUT TOURS
Sunday, July 20
1pm-4pm

A - Milt Moore 734-676-7774
 30693 Young Gibraltar, MI 48173

B - Steve Kelly: 734-676-0975
 30312 Windsor Gibraltar, MI 48173

