



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, JUNE 20, 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.

SHOW AND TELL

At the last meeting, we redid our subject from the cancelled March meeting - something from the prototype. Items shown included many railroad spikes, lanterns, playing cards, several rule books including one from Australia, glass & porcelain line insulator, switch lock & key, silverware, cap badge for conductor, pictures, passenger handouts & timetables and a new electronic engine control module from a brand new 4000 series loco engine! A few current projects also were displayed including Jim Tilley's finished Tichy coaling tower- WOW! And scratch built theatre, G scale box car detailed, cork roadbed sander, steel factory corner building. But taking the "prize"... was Jim Zinser and his kidney stone being used as scenery material and the screening material from the funnel used to catch the kidney stone for screen mesh for doors and windows! WOW! Now that's being resourceful! We also thank those who donated to the caboose! **NEXT MEETING-** something with a DCC module installed in/on it

NEW DIV 6 OFFICER

At the Div 6 meeting in May, Div 6 Secretary Dick Harden stepped down from his office. After asking for volunteers to replace Dick, Div 6 Super. Glenn later announced that Howard Andrews would take on the job. Howard is already coordinating our meeting clinics, but felt he could also handle the Secretary position. Thanks Howard for stepping up to fill the position. Thanks also goes out to Dick, who did a fine job while he was our Secretary.

ON THE RAILS...

JUNE 2008

Hello once again from the Div 6 "news room"... We had a great meeting last month and with the summer fast approaching, we hope you will make time for the Div 6 meetings during the summer. YES, some clubs/groups often take the summer months off and hold no meetings or gatherings. We at Div 6, believe that model railroading is a year-round hobby. And if anything, you need those summer meetings to keep your interest going! So don't forget about us... we have some great meeting subjects approaching and seeing your model railroading friends at least once a month is great too! 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

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.divisiononncr.org/covn2008.htm or call Fred Lux 734-856-6489 or email Fred at fred@fredlux.com

LAYOUT TOURS

In May, Frank Spadafore had his HO pike open for us to view and enjoy! Thanks Frank for being open for our Div 6 members! 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- none for June, some possible in July! Stay tuned...

DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Clinics- Howard Andrews
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Layout Tours- Dick Harden
248-889-2228 Richhard01@comcast.net
History- new volunteer needed!!!
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

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.

*** I have a number of foam rubber pieces, about 100, that will fit in a brief case, rectangular in shape approximately 1 and 1/.4 inch thick **FREE** to anybody that wants them.

Because of the quantity involved I would appreciate knowing in advance how many would like them. As I said they are FREE. My e-mail address is renard592@gmail.com. Thanks Jim Fox

DIV 6 MISC NEWS

With the change in the Div 6 Secretary position, Howard has gone through the membership and mailing list. There are many people who should be removed from the list, as they have not attended a meeting in the last 3 months. That is our requirement- attend at least once every three months, or you will be removed from the newsletter mailing list. Some members on the "fence" will get reminder letters with this newsletter, asking them to attend the next meeting, or supply the Div. with \$6 to handle the newsletter postage. The new roster has 65 members in good standing, 21 potential to be removed and 31 that will be removed.

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.

FREE-MO MODELING

The FREE-MO modeling Group had their first meeting on Tuesday, May 20th. Approximately 20 folks showed up to hear John Young explain the Freemo advantages several Div 6 members were there. Freemo is a module standard that supports point to point operations supporting more interesting operating sessions. Modules are easy to build and the flexible standard allows for creativity with scenery and high quality 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!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had no new members last month. To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

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 would like someone to become our new History Master and follow in Don's foot steps. If you are interested, please contact a Div 6 Board member! At the next meeting, I (Barry) will have a photo show on some history of the Reading Historical Society and the recent trip my wife and I took to the Grand Opening of their new museum!

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

CLINIC

At the last meeting, Div 6 member Joe Bliss gave us a very informative clinic on DCC installations. Joe had a very good slide (computer) presentation, showing several of the installations he has done for himself and others. Most important, Joe gave out lots of tips and pitfalls to avoid when doing your own installations! He had several main points- 1) always test the decoders on a tester stand before installing. 2) check motor amp draw at stall 3) use 2 decoders for extra functions- one sound, one silent 4) use speaker enclosures to maximize your sound 5) DCC ready means you can do a plug-play with a silent decoder, sound may take more work 6) always double check the wiring on the locomotive - some are wired wrong from the factory or are using wrong color wires! Joe also mentioned many different brands of decoders and some of the pitfalls each can have. Thanks Joe for your great DCC clinic! Tons of great information! 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- HANDS-ON clinic by Bill Deeter- making Brake Stops for track on a slope. Members should bring a pair of seriated needle nose plies to make their own.

MODELING INFORMATION

While I don't remember any questions at the meeting, we did get a tip from Ken Borg via email-

I know that many of us model industry that was served by the Pennsylvania Railroad and successors. I stumbled on this neat PRR sign generator that can be used to make PRR station & tower signs:

<http://pr.railfan.net/makesign.html>

We look forward to more questions and tips next month!

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!

PRODUCT REVIEW

We had one review at the last meeting. It was on a video tape - Penn Central Vol. 4 is a great video from the 1970's and features many Detroit scenes and locations. Rated EXCELLENT by Div 6 member Dave J. I believe it was by Green Frog Productions. Thanks Dave for the review! If you have an item to review, please see Glenn before the meeting starts.

NCR-DIV 6 2010 CONV. !!

The North Central Region annual Convention for 2010 will be hosted by us, Div 6!! No new news to report on, but we have one entry for naming the convention- Norm Logan has entered "The Livonia Limited". Please bring your ideas to the next Div 6 meeting. We will award the winning idea with a free entry!

DIV 6 NMRA PROMOTION

We didn't get a chance to talk about this, but it is still an idea that could/should be discussed to see if any of us are interested. An idea from another Region/Div is to have members of local Divisions, volunteer their time at local hobby shops. No, not as sales people, but as a demo table, very similar to what we do for our entire Fall Workshop & Show. With the hobby shop's permission, a Div member would set-up a table and work on various projects for several hours, right in the hobby store. This would prompt questions from customers. While answering specific modeling questions, this also affords us the chance to promote our Divisions, Region and the NMRA.