



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

ON THE RAILS...

MAY 2008

OOPS, we almost went right into summer! As mentioned last month, when the nicer weather arrives, it seems model railroading takes a loss in activity. However, if you belong to a modeling group, like I do, it does become a year round activity, as you are getting together weekly or so. This is a good thing! Have you considered a modeling group? They are easy to start and our Div 6 membership is the perfect place to get one going. While not everyone in the group I am in is not a Div 6 member, many are and that helps keep us going, as we share the Div activities and meetings too. So consider starting a group... you'll have more fun and get more model railroading completed on your own layout 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. Div 6 history is up and this newsletter will be posted monthly now in PDF format. Check it out at this address -

www.div6-ncr-nmra.com

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, MAY 16, 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.

LAYOUT TOURS

WOW... two great layouts were open this past month! Dave Kunz and Dennis Grudzinsky's layouts were open recently and they were great. Dennis is about 99.9% complete and running very well with lots of SP steam power. Dave's layout, in O scale, is HUGE!! Built on the 2nd floor of a pole barn, it is just shy of the size of the Detroit Club layout in Holly! Lots of track, bridges and nice city scenes with lots of detailing. Super! Thanks guys 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- Frank Spadafore's HO scale layout on May 18th 12-4

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 Webmaster- Ed Beamish
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 Div 6 Fall Show- Doug Mayer
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Meeting Coffee- Walt Plentis

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.

DIV 6 MISC NEWS

Thanks to Jim Zinser for providing us with a Div 6 history for the website!

Gary Mead reports that the Great Lakes Live Steamers started downriver in April and will start at Royal Oak in May. GLLS run on the 1st weekend in Royal Oak and the 3rd weekend in Southgate, of each month, May-October. Come on out and ride a train!

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.

Congrats to Bill Neale for having an article published in the latest Model Railroader Layout Series magazine!

Sorry, don't remember who reported this - May 10th at the Toledo Amtrak Station it is "Train Days". This will include special displays.

FREE-MO MODELING

The FREE-MO modeling Group will be having a meeting at the Livonia Senior Center on Tuesday, May 20th starting at 7:30pm. This will be the first meeting and include a clinic and intro to what Free-Mo is about. Please keep in touch with Div 6 Clinic Chairman Howard for more information.

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.

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

SHOW AND TELL

At the last meeting, we did photos, as our clinic was on photography. We had plenty of pictures that members brought in to show off. Some were modeling subjects, many were prototype subjects. We also had prototype items show-up and they included an Erie Lantern, tie plate with spikes, Erie lock & key, 1950's Erie deck of cards and some GMO-Alton door seals. A few current projects also were displayed including RS3 with decoders, several structures, PS1 boxcar kitbash from a Lionel, Tichy coaling tower and a caboose kitbash

to an Ann Arbor style. We also thank those who donated to the caboose!

NEXT MEETING- something from the proto-type (a redo from March)

NMRA-NCR NEWS

At the Div 6 meeting in April, Dave Thornton, our area NMRA Trustee, gave a quick report on the convention finance wrap-up. He is trying to get the NCR more money, due to a old head tax that really didn't need to be in place. If this goes through, the Region share would almost double. And just so you have an idea how BIG the convention was... all total, over \$600,000 was taken in/shelled out!

Then on Saturday after the Div meeting was an NCR Board meeting, where our own Jack Watson was installed as the new NCR President! Also, Marty LaForte is the new NCR Registrar. Committee's were formed to review the HOTBOX publication, budget oversights and by-laws review. Also mentioned were the NCR convention schedule. Div 1-Toledo is this year. Div 3- Fort Wayne is in 2009. Div 6 (US!!) will host the 2010 convention. 2011 is Div 5- Lansing, the National returns to Div 4 Grand Rapids in 2012 and perhaps a combined convention of Div 8 and 10 for 2013.

CLINIC

At the last meeting we had a long time guest, Fr. Dale, and he did his clinic on model photography and special effects. Fr. Dale showed slides of pictures taken mostly in the dark, then highlighted with a flashlight to brighten locomotives and their detail. This can be done with any close-up photo you are trying to take. It give the photo a unique look and quality. Fr. Dale also mentioned to always use a tripod for your camera and turn that F-stop down as low as possible for the greatest depth of field. Thanks Fr. Dale for a interesting clinic! 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- Joe Bliss on DCC workings and settings

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! Perhaps at the next meeting, I (Barry) may have a photo presentation 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

PRODUCT REVIEW

We had two reviews at the last meeting. First off, was a testimonial of the Evan Design Building software. With this program, you can create buildings for stand alone or background use. It can be used for different scales, but you are limited by the size of a sheet of paper. The program is about \$39. A second review was on a few deals from Harbor Freight tool supply stores. They were running a great deal on small slide clamps for less than a dollar each! Also shown was a carving tool set for \$6 and heavy duty scissors that will cut styrene for \$1! Third was a review of a Spectrum PCC car that matches a Detroit prototype pretty good. It was sold through Micro-Mark and Nankin Hobby had some too. Very nice running and DCC ready. If you have an item to review, please see Glenn before the meeting starts.

DIV 6 FALL SHOW SQ FT

At the last meeting, we decided to add in an activity to our annual Fall Workshop & Show... the square foot contest. Here is what that is about...

- ** 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

These models will be displayed at the Fall Show and voted on in the model contest. Have fun and get started!

NCR-DIV 6 2010 CONV. !!

The North Central Region annual Convention for 2010 will be hosted by us, Div 6!! A group of Div 6 people are already working on initial plans, including date and location. A date in October is being considered and the location will most likely be one of the major hotels by Laurel Park Mall. And we need your help with a name and theme. Please bring your ideas to the next Div 6 meeting. We may award the winning idea with a free entry!

DIV 6 NMRA PROMOTION

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. This sounds like a cool idea, but we would need volunteers and hobby shops to allow us to do this. Right now this is just an idea.

DON WATSON NEWS

History master Don Watson is doing better, but he still needs lots of care. Ilene, Don's wife is also doing better, but recovering slowly and has moved to the upper side of the metro area, to be close to their daughter. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers! We have this report from Joe Bliss.....

Talked to Don Watson's daughter Debbie this morning. He's over the pneumonia, and is able to swallow his food, so long as they puree it in a blender. They were thinking of putting a tube in his stomach, but decided against it, since he's able to eat that way. He's gained back 5 pounds, but still very weak. She said he still has difficulty talking, and his "short term" memory is very bad. Best time to visit him is in the afternoon, when he's more awake. One of the people there said he was very lucky to still be alive, as the pneumonia almost took him as well. She said it was like a miracle that he seemed to rebound from it overnight. He still looks very thin & frail though. If anyone goes to see him, he won't be able to carry on a conversation, but maybe seeing familiar faces will let him know we care, and give him encouragement! He's still in Manor of Novi, Meadowbrook Rd. just North of 10 mile, Room C-16.

MODELING INFORMATION

We did have a question arise...

** *What is a spring switch?* This is where a turnout has a spring in it so that a train can go through the switch, frog to point direction, even though it is not thrown properly. The train wheels move the points and the spring moves the points back. We look forward to more questions and tips next month!

