

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

## ON THE RAILS...

OCTOBER 2008

One more month!! Yes, one more month and it's National Model RR Month! One more month- and it's our annual Fall Show & Workshop! And hopefully in one more month, we're not knee-deep in snow! Well, we still have October to get through, so don't fret too much! As we go through October, it's getting darker out sooner and that means you get some/more model railroad time, because you can't be outside doing anything! Get your layouts ready... we have a convention in ONLY 2 years! Back to the Show & Workshop- we NEED you to volunteer for a display!! See the article for the latest news. Lastly, Thanks for your kind comments on the first issue I completed of the HotBox. I hope I can continue to build the HotBox into one of your favorite magazines. Now, here's the rest of your Div 6 news-

### PRODUCT REVIEW

Dick Harden talked about using compressed air cans, normally for cleaning computers, to dust-off our rolling stock and buildings! 6 cans at Costco for \$17; 2 cans at Office Max for \$7. Good info! If you have an item to review, please see Glenn before the meeting starts.

### 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, OCT 17, 2008**. 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

Subject was stock cars, as used for animals. Shown at the meeting were a Refer car- for stock not on the hoof; Swift stock car, Tyco stock car repainted NYC; 2 level pig car Proto2000; G scale Aristo-craft; BDWLTD car; N scale PRR Lima; a NASCAR stock car- promptly followed by an AHM 40 yr old car costing 88 cents, GTW BDWLTD; RDG AHM; Bowser multi deck PRR; Precision Scale brass stock car O scale PRR; PRR Mantua weighted; UP stock car Revell; Central Valley kit unbuilt; Tyco stock car; 3 narrow gauge stock cars; double door stock car Am Flyer; Accurail stock car; C&O stock car; car card for stock car not accepted by the crowd; MDC-Roundhouse Clinchfield car; 20+ Varney cars but can't find them; Revell kit; wood kit built 36' and a Mather stock car Proto 2000. Current projects shown included a barn structure; AHM structure kit just starting; photos of layout construction and progress by 2 different layout owners; hydra-cal structure; coffee mug from NCR convention won because convention was close to his birthday; 3 pages of switch lists for 24 hr cycle for passenger trains only; wood structure kit for next month; copy of RR schedule; street car kit; track plan for 15" gauge RR in UP! We also thank those who donated to the caboose!

**NEXT MEETING-** kit you showed at the August meeting & it's progress

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had another new member last month. Please welcome Stuart Pollock! To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

## DIVISION 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Superintendent- Glenn Joppich  
734-464-6004 steambigot@yahoo.com  
Asst. Superintendent- Bill Rubarth  
734-522-5876 wrubarth@twmi.rr.com  
Secretary- Howard Andrews  
734-728-4697 hwandrews@wowway.com  
Treasurer- Larry Wolohon  
734-454-4816  
larrywolohon@comcast.net

### OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF

Newsletter- Barry Hensel  
734-397-5182 Barry76Lt@wowway.com  
Clinics- Howard Andrews  
734-728-4697 hwandrews@wowway.com  
Layout Tours- Dick Harden  
248-889-2228 Richhard01@comcast.net  
History- Norm Logan  
248-348-2473 nlogan114@wowway.com  
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.

## NEW DIV 6 WEBSITE

The new Div 6 website is up and being updated often. Check it out at- [www.div6-ncr-nmra.com](http://www.div6-ncr-nmra.com)

## MODELING INFORMATION

We did have a few questions/tips at the meeting,

**\*\* TIP on FREE material-** Bill Rubarth showed us a material, usually black, plastic and has a pattern on it that looks like diamond plate. Bill used it on a tofc car for the bridge plates. It could also be used for treadways and walkways. Where to get this material? Try Home Depot... and it should be FREE... it's the BANDING for lumber... they throw it away!  
**\*\* Need help shaking those paint bottles?** Graham Brown has a home-made paint shaker. Made of some brass stock it has a cradle that is the size of a typical paint bottle and a stem. The flat stem fits into a jig saw like the blade, screw it down and turn on the saw to shake the paint bottles! Sounds like a "how to do" article for the HotBox!  
**\*\* Question-** sprung trucks - how to keep springs in - thought of acc glue to one end. I don't remember if anyone really had an answer for this, other than sprung trucks are bad for DCC layouts and many do not use them.

**\*\* Question-** MDC shay kits, need parts- looking for scrap loco for parts, please call Frank Spadafore at 313-271-7308  
Thanks for your questions, tips and answers! We look forward to more questions, 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!

## RAILROAD HISTORY

Although he sent a video to fill in for him, as Norm was absent from the meeting, we did not have time to view that video. Looking forward to another lesson next month.

## **NCR-DIV 6 '10 CONV- NCE**

The North Central Region annual Convention for 2010 will be hosted by us, Div 6! The **North Central Express** is tentatively scheduled for October 16-18, 2009. We'll confirm those dates once we make a deal with a local hotel. We are still gathering quotes, we have 3 and are looking at possibly 3 more. We are also open for suggestions for a headline speaker, special theme tied into the contests and any other suggestions to make our NCR convention a great one! Please give suggestions to any Div 6 Board member or Barry.

## **FALL WORKSHOP & SHOW**

Doug was at the meeting and gave us a quick talk on the Show-Workshop. A suggestion was made to get train show flyers to local schools as a great way to get people to the event. Another suggestion is to have a NMRA application with the special newsletter at train show and give those out at the door. Doug had extra applications at the meeting and several members filled these out - THANKS! We also have word of a possible 4 layouts- 2 in S scale! Charlie also volunteered a timesaver layout from the Boy Scouts but we'll need someone to run it. And we were on a roll with more suggestions, like having a NMRA table at show and no names on contest/sq foot entries. Jack is still looking for donations for raffle, but remember, your donation cannot be junk!! Please do not donate it if you wouldn't use it on your layout! We did get the flyers printed and many members took some home with them. These need to be posted at work, school, church and just about everywhere else. We will again, work with the local hobby shops to have special flyers printed up for them to pass out. Also see the sign-up sheet in this newsletter! Please copy it and bring it in at the next meeting!! We will need lots of displays! We need YOU!!

## **CLINIC**

Div 6 member Mark Ellis gave us a clinic on layout animation. He talked about types of animation-motion, sound, and light. To show examples, Mark showed us pictures of a visit to the ChooChoo Barn in PA. An O scale layout with lots of animation! Then Mark showed us some of his handi-work and suggested several ways to get cheap effects. For light flashers, use free give-aways from seminars, etc... take apart and re-wire; Minitronics makes flashing LED's; dollar store cheap fiber optic toys - take apart and use. For sound modules to buy-Dream Player brand for up to 4 sounds. Other things to try are vehicle lights, doors open/close using switch machines and a simple cable system! Neat stuff! Thanks Mark for sharing your knowledge!

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-** Larry Woholon on resin freight car kits

## **LAYOUT TOURS**

THANKS goes out to Pierre and Paul for opening their layouts this past month. For October, we're going to borrow the Div 8 layout tours. Please see the map later in this newsletter! We may have some layouts in November and we do have tours in December!

Thinking of hosting a layout tour? Give Dick a call or email if you would like to have your layout on a tour!

**NEXT TOUR-** SUNDAY, Oct 19- Div 8  
See map for directions!

## **NCR CONV- Toledo**

It was a great time- about 165 registered, 30 models in contest plus many photos; 20+ layouts on tour, clinics and a well known keynote speaker- Allen McClelland! Congratulations to Fred Lux, Conv. Chairman and all of Div 1 for a job well done!

## 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

I guess our best wishes and prayers helped Div 6 member Bob McKibben. While he continues to recover from a leg injury, he did make it to the last meeting. Glad to see you back!

Div 6 member Rich Smith told us about the Train Barn in Kalamazoo. It's a hobby shop and display layout, O scale about 3000 sq ft! It's a nice place to visit, been around for many years, but is closing March 8th 2009. In the mean time they are reducing opening hours. This is due to health reasons. To check their new hours call 269-327-9933.

Gary Mead told us about the Great Lakes Live steamers and their schedule for Oct. In Southgate, Fri-Sat night runs for Halloween on Oct 17-18 from 6pm-8:30pm plus regular Sat/Sunday runs!

Wally announced the December 13<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Lights Tour, from Redford to Crossroads Village, with stops in Frankenmuth for shopping at Bronners and chicken dinner at the Bavarian Inn. A ride on the Huckleberry RR at the village is also included, only \$69 per person.

## NCR NEWS

At the convention there was the annual NCR Board Meeting. News from that meeting are that all Divisions got \$500 extra money from National Conv.; There will be some slight Constitution changes to be voted on and the changes to the HotBox have changed again. Plus, there is now money available to Divisions, grants, to help promote our hobby. We discussed getting a Div 6 banner and a screen for our meeting room, which we would donate to Livonia and have it mounted in the room!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, Oct 12-** Toy Train Swap  
UF&C Workers Hall Madison Hgts, MI  
10am-2pm \$3 per person, \$6 family

**Sunday, Oct 12-** Model Train Flea Market  
Southgate Civic Center  
10:30AM-3:00PM \$2.50; under 12 free with adult

**Sunday, Oct 26-** Trainorama 2008  
Costick Community Center  
Farmington Hills, MI  
10am-4pm \$4 per person, children under 12 free with paid adult

**Sunday, Oct 26-** Train Show & Sale  
JFK Memorial Bldg Lincoln Park, MI  
11am-3pm \$3.00 early bird \$8.00  
John Waske at 734-676-8645

**Sunday, Nov 2-** Train Show & Sale  
Macomb Comm College Expo Center  
10AM-4PM Adults \$5.50, Children 12 & under FREE, Coupon @ [www.gvrr.org](http://www.gvrr.org)

**Sunday, Nov 9-** Lansing Model Railroad Club Train Show and Sale  
Michigan State University Pavilion  
East Lansing, Michigan  
10am-4pm Adults \$5, children (6-12) \$2, children under 6 & scouts in uniform are FREE

**Sunday, Nov 30-** Model Railroad Workshop & Show by Div 6  
Livonia Senior Center Five Mile and Farmington Rds Livonia, MI  
11am-4pm **FREE ADMISSION!!**

**Saturday, Dec 13-** Toy Train Swap  
Holy Family Regional School  
Rochester Hills, MI  
11am-3:30pm \$3 per person, \$6 family, early bird 10am, \$10

**Sat-Sunday, Dec 27-28-** Train Show  
Lucas Co Rec. Center Maumee, OH  
11am-4pm Adults \$4 under 12 free  
[FOTMRR@modelrailstuff.com](mailto:FOTMRR@modelrailstuff.com)

**Sunday, Jan 18-** Train Show & Sale  
Athens High School Troy, MI  
10am-3pm \$3.00 Adults, 12 & Under Free when with a paid adult.  
[flams2@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:flams2@troy.k12.mi.us)

**Sunday- Feb 2-** Train Show & Sale  
Saline Middle School Saline, MI  
10am-4pm \$6.00 [www.a2trainshow.com](http://www.a2trainshow.com)

**Division 8 Layout Tour**  
**October 19, 2008**  
**1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Al Crowley's Port Huron Northern**  
**14509 Four Lakes Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48313**  
**(586) 566-3863**

The Port Huron Northern is an HO layout 23' x 28'. It is a fictitious line that operates between Port Huron and Saginaw in the late 1950's. Motive power is a mix of steam and early diesel locomotives, all sound equipped. The power is Digitrax DCC. Scenery is approximately 70% complete and is just reaching the point of adding small details in many areas.

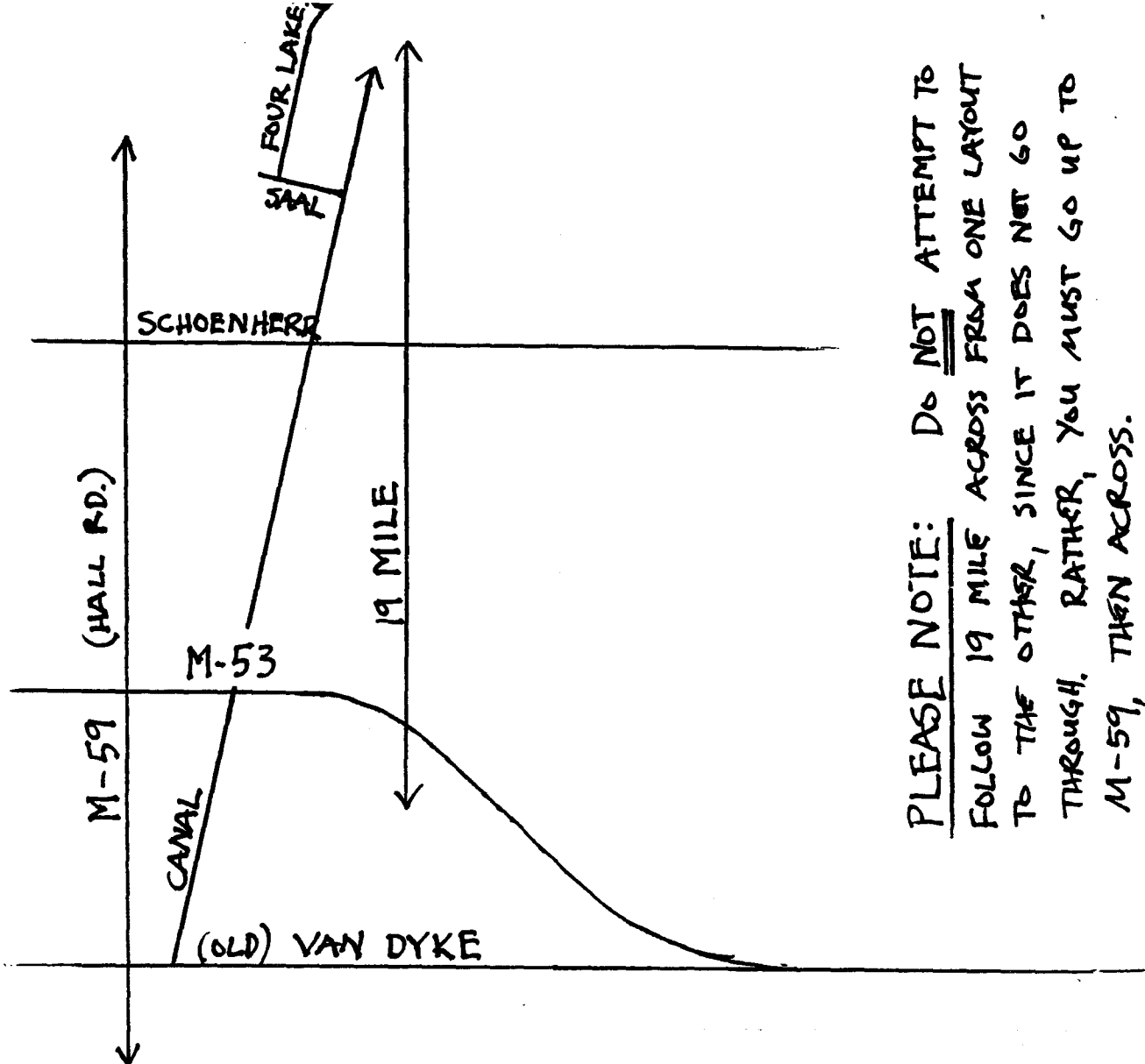
The route from Port Huron to Saginaw passes through Brown City, Marlette, Montrose and Burt before arriving in Saginaw. There are several industries along the way to provide local traffic plus interchanges at both ends.

Farm products and industrial goods provide for several trains each way during the day. A passenger train operates on an every-other-day schedule between Detroit and Saginaw. It leaves Detroit Monday, Wednesday and Friday for Saginaw and returns Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

**Jim Dennis' New York Central**  
**2733 Denise Dr., Troy, MI 48085**  
**(248) 879-0840**

This HO version of the New York Central features a double track main in a folded dog-bone configuration with a generous 400 ft. mainline. It is an around-the-walls plan occupying a 24' X 31' basement. It has three yards and four hidden staging tracks. The track is laid with 32" minimum radius curves and a 1.5 % maximum grade. Mainline turnouts are number 8s, while the yard turnouts are number 6s. The control system is Digitrax Radio DCC.

Although the layout follows the New York Central prototype, it is largely freelanced (and includes some CB&Q). It is set in the era from the late 1950s to the mid 60s.



PLEASE NOTE: Do NOT ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW 19 MILE ACROSS FROM ONE LAYOUT TO THE OTHER, SINCE IT DOES NOT GO THROUGH. RATHER, YOU MUST GO UP TO M-59, THEN ACROSS.

