

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

## ON THE RAILS...

### SEPTEMBER 2008

Well... September already?? WOW, 2008 is just traveling along! Yes, Autumn is just around the corner, but that's actually a good thing! Autumn means summer activities are winding down and room on your schedule for model railroading should increase! I hope that is what happens to you! It's also time for the annual NCR Convention, which is being held in Toledo and hosted by Div 1. I'm sure it will be a great convention! With this being September, that means our own Div 6 Show & Workshop is another month closer. Please start planning for this event! Now, here's the rest of your Div 6 news-

### 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.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We had another new member last month. Please welcome Rich Smith! Rich heard about us from Larry Wolohon while working at Fords. To all Div 6 members, WELCOME ABOARD!

### DIV 6 MEETINGS

Our Division 6 meetings are on the **THIRD** Friday of each month and our next Division 6 meeting will be on **THE 4TH FRIDAY OF SEPTEMBER-FRIDAY, SEPT 26, 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.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT-** The September meeting is being moved due to the NCR Conv in Toledo.

### SHOW AND TELL

Subject was something un-built that you will return in 2 months, built! Items shown included church, DTI center flow hopper, 40' box car, main street kit, NYC RPO car, PRR station laser kit, 24' wood ore car, Bar Mills shed, push-pull switch system, sand towers, more station kits, outhouse kits, unloading ramp, company houses, passenger car kit, grain elevator kit, engine house, and a gas station kit. Looks like we're all going to be pretty busy! Current Projects shown were an all wooden hand-made box made to transport trolley model to and from events/shows! Sweet! We also thank those who donated to the caboose!

**NEXT MEETING-** railroad live-stock cars

### 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 a review at the last meeting. Larry Williams gave us a quick run-down on the Blair Line grade crossing kit..... "it's good and quick and easy!" Thanks Larry for the info.! 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!! At this time, we're still waiting for a proposal from the Livonia Radisson hotel, which is our first choice due to the amount of meeting space they have available. We will be looking at the Marriott and a suggestion to check out the Hyatt in Dearborn. The official name of our convention has been chosen by the Div 6 membership at the last meeting - the **North Central Express** was the winning name. Guy Quick suggested the name, so he gets a free registration for the convention. While our hotel arrangements are just getting started, we have again heard of concerns/problems with hotels and other Divisions in our Region and the costs/requirements these hotels are putting on our groups. Let me assure you, we will do everything possible to get the best, lowest cost deal and not scrimp on the arrangements, as humanly possible! However... some "out of the box" thinking may also be required.

## **FALL WORKSHOP & SHOW**

Doug sent a report in his absence, saying that the next priority is **LAYOUTS!!** The Boy Scouts will again be there with their layout, but we are in need of **MANY** others. We have the entire building to fill, so 2 or 3 good size layouts would be nice! An idea to help get layouts would be to feed the layout owners/workers lunch. We'll discuss that at the next meeting. We will have show flyer at the next meeting and we need volunteers to take some of these to **EVERY** train show in our area! These also 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!!**

## **RAILROAD HISTORY**

The history lesson from Prof. Norm was another winner and was passed on through some emails. Titled "K4 making up time" it told of a story by a PRR employee, taking his last K4 cab ride on his way to Philly. Riding along from Altoona to Harrisburg, the engineer had to make up time to stay on schedule. The K4 was put to the test as it screamed across the country-side. Suddenly the rhythmic sound of the drivers/rods changed and our rider knew it could be disaster! Were the rods coming apart? Yet the K4 made it through OK. And on time! Great info and history... Thanks Prof Norm! Looking forward to another lesson next month.

## **CLINIC**

Guy Quick gave us a very interesting clinic for August - "Farming in the 60's". Guy had a great hand-out with a quiz! His slide (computer) show included some personal history, as members of his family owned a farm in Illinois. In fact, the farm is on the Historic Register! Guy showed us different crops, when they were planted and harvested and the equipment that was used. His hand-out also lists many of the model manufacture's and the farm stuff they make and in which scales. We will try to get this hand-out posted on the Div 6 website. Good stuff Guy! Thanks for your clinic on an interesting subject, to help our modeling!

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-** Mark Ellis on layout animation!

## **MINI CLINIC**

Ron King offered a mini-clinic on getting passenger cars to track better by moving the trucks 5 scale feet (approx. 5/8") outward. The increased center to center distance helps the cars track better!

## 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.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT-

The September meeting will be moved to the 4th Friday, Sept. 26, due to the NCR Convention in Toledo.

## NEW DIV 6 WEBSITE

The new Div 6 website is up and being updated often. There are some great pictures from last year's Workshop. 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** Bill Deeter had another great quick tip for us this month... a quick and easy way to store small paint brushes, or pens/pencils, or anything with a small handle. Take an empty can, like a tuna can. Cut corrugated cardboard into strips the same height as the can and fill the can with these strips by rolling them together. With the cardboard strips on edge in the can, your brushes can be pushed into the cardboard, handle end first, which will hold it nicely! COOL!

**\*\* Another Div 6 member asked** about the product that many use for filling in the brick mortar on buildings.... Roberts Brick Mortar is the product and it can usually only be purchased direct.

Robert's Products Co.  
PO Box 27057 Milwaukee, WI 53227  
The cost is approx. \$16.00 for the 4oz. size. It was also available at- Michigan Model Train Center 9260 McGregor Road Pinckney, MI 48169 (734) 426-1651

And it is also available from Caboose Hobbies in Denver for approx. \$5.95 for the 1oz size & \$15.95 for the 4oz size plus shipping.

Thanks for your questions and answers! We look forward to more questions and tips next month!

## 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](http://www.divisiononencr.org/covn2008.htm)  
or call Fred Lux 734-856-6489 or email Fred at [fred@fredlux.com](mailto:fred@fredlux.com)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT-

The September meeting will be moved to the 4th Friday, Sept. 26, due to the NCR Convention in Toledo.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday/Sunday, Sept 20-21-**

Steam Railroad Institute Hobo Days  
Owosso, MI 10AM-5PM Rain or Shine!  
\$5 per person, under 4 FREE

**Sunday, Sept 21-** Train Show

Lucas Co Fairgrds Maumee, OH  
11am-4pm \$4 adult Under 12 free.  
\$8 early admission, 9:30am-11am

**Saturday-Sunday, Sept 27-28-**

Lansing MI Model RR club open house  
5309 Old Lansing Road Lansing, MI  
11am-4pm both dates Free Admission

**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, 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

## DIV 6 MISC NEWS

Best wishes and prayers to Div 6 member Bob McKibben, as he recovers from a leg injury. Hurry back to our meetings and events!

THANKS Graham..! for having some FREE wire screening available at the last meeting. This stuff can be used for mountain making on your layout. Don't remember if anyone took some of this.....

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. Go to the ~~NRHS-Bluewater~~ website-

We are looking for a Div 6 "Informer"!! This will be a person to write an article up to 4 times a year for the HotBox, the NCR magazine. New HotBox Editor Barry Hensel, wants an "Informer" from each Division to report on what that Division is doing, so he can put that information in the HotBox. You must have a computer, as all articles must be send via email or other electronic means.

## NRHS BLUEWATER HELP

The Bluewater chapter of the NRHS needs your help! They must find a new location to store their fleet of passenger cars. Their current location, a roundhouse, has been sold. While they do not have a deadline on leaving the property, they know it's only a matter of time. The Chapter has 10 passenger cars and 2-3 box cars to store. If you have any knowledge of some property that has rail access, please contact the Bluewater NRHS chapter!

## NCR HOTBOX

As you read this Div 6 "On the Rails" newsletter, the first issue of the HotBox, edited by myself, should also be arriving at your mail box. I hope you enjoy this first issue as much as I enjoyed putting it together. Please remember..... as mentioned at the meetings (and in the HotBox) we/I am always in need of articles! Layout tours, how-to-do articles, general interest news, Division news (from Informers!), humor and history! I hope you will help me make the HotBox a better magazine!

## NMRA NAT CONV NEWS

The 2009 National Convention was held in Anaheim California this past July. Attendance was down a bit from our efforts in 2007, to a total of approx. 1139. Jim Zinser and Larry Wolohon gave us some reports of the event and mentioned-layout tours were too long as everyone was so far away from each other. A typical tour for 3-4 layouts lasted all day! (and you didn't get any extra time at the layout) The one prototype tour of the Alameda Corridor, which is called the "freeway of trains".... had none on the one day of the tour! The model contest was well attended with over 80 entries and Jim/Larry helped judge the contest. The Train Show was also down in vendors, as space was a bit costly. One nice aspect was that Larry took the train out to the convention - what a way to relax and get the max train exposure for the event! He met a few others on the train, also headed to the convention, so the trip itself was fun too! One bright spot was a double header narrow gauge steam train at Knotts Berry Farms Park! Next years' convention will be held in Hartford!

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT-

REMEMBER, the Div 6 Meeting for this month is ONE WEEK LATE due to the NCR convention!! Meeting date is September 26<sup>th</sup>!! Same time, same place! See YOU there!!

## HOBBY SHOPS CLOSE

More hobby shops are closing. Rider's chain has lost 2 more stores, one in Toledo and one right here in Livonia. While the Livonia store did not have a great train department, they did have some basic stuff that was convenient! It is closing in a week or so. And the Rider's store in Ypsilanti has moved one mile away, to a larger, less costly building. They are now located at Carpenter and Packard Rds in Ypsilanti and word is their train department should be getting bigger.

## LAYOUT TOURS

THANKS goes out to Dick and Ted for their layout tours last month! Two great layouts that were worth the drive. You missed a couple of good layouts! Thanks guys! AND-cool!!, we have MORE tours for September! We have also received information on some layout tours from Div 8! Again, these are a bit of a drive, 19 Mile Rd at Dequindre and Schoenherr, but I'm sure these are great layouts! These tours are on Sunday, Oct 19th and we'll have maps at the next Div 6 meeting.

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

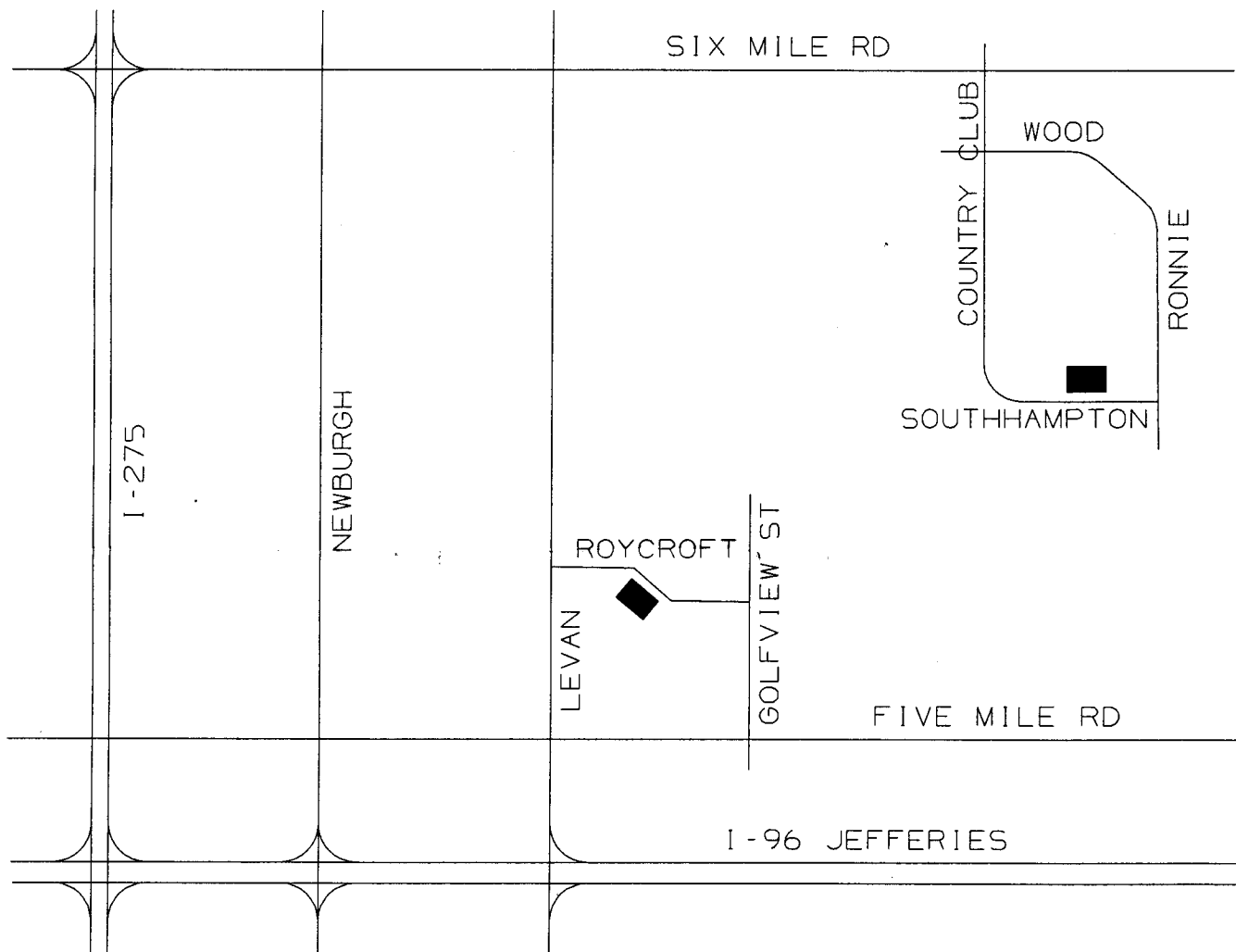
**NEXT TOUR-** SUNDAY, Sept 28, 1pm-4pm Paul Omilian & Pierre Willermet  
See map for directions!

# DIV 6 LAYOUT TOURS

## SUNDAY, Sept 28, 1pm-4pm

**PAUL OMILIAN**  
35490 SOUTHAMPTON  
LIVONIA, MI 48154  
734-464-6252

**PIERRE WILLERMET**  
36123 ROYCROFT  
LIVONIA, MI 48152  
734-953-2546



# Div 6 Annual Fall Show & Workshop Volunteer form

Please fill in the following and return to Doug Meyer at the next meeting or mail it to-  
Doug Meyer 22592 Lazy K South Lyon, Mi 48178

You can also contact Doug at 248-486-0608 or email to- *Div6workshop@hotmail.com*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteering to.... (circle as many as apply)

Set-up    Take-down    Food    Admissions    Raffle    Display

Display: \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstrate: \_\_\_\_\_

Take Flyers to: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tables needed (Based on a 6 foot table size) \_\_\_\_\_

Need Electric    Yes    No

Display working layout

Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum Size: \_\_\_\_ ft X \_\_\_\_ ft    Prefer Size: \_\_\_\_ ft X \_\_\_\_ ft

Help with Scouts program- I will do - (circle one!)

- \* types of freight cars
- \* design a model railroad
- \* diesel loco types and operation
- \* railroad signals
- \* what/how/why of grade crossings
- \* name the different scales
- \* different railroads and where they are/were
- \* railroad departments and support industries
- \* Amtrak history and transit lines
- \* Operation Lifesaver
- \* building a model RR kit
- \* do switching on a layout
- \* all aspects of railroad safety

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR DISPLAYS.....**

- \*structure building
- \*railroad history
- \*track laying basics
- \*rolling stock building
- \*type of rolling stock
- \*kit-bashing
- \*people painting
- \*benchwork basics
- \*layout planning
- \*types of locomotives
- \*detailing
- \*tree making
- \*DCC systems
- \*photography
- \*different scales
- \*decaling/dry transfer
- \*scenery basics
- \*wiring basics
- \*computers in model rr'ing
- \*classic toy trains

..... and YES, we can have more than one person doing the same demo!!!