



The Pie Card



Division Eight Newsletter - Mid-Central Region, National Model Railroad Association

Volume 49

April 2010

Number 4



From the Superintendent's Desk

A word of thanks is due to everyone who ran for office, the nominating committee and the Teller. The Teller and two witnesses counted the ballots and certified the results. The terms of office take effect at the May meeting. Thank you for entrusting the stewardship of the division to our hands.

We had two guests, Mike and Tim Schweri; join us at our March meeting. Welcome! We hope you like what you experienced and join us. We want to get to know you better. The rich diversity of ideas makes us ever stronger. I saw both of these gentlemen join us for snacks and conversation. It seems our guests are quickly becoming old friends. That is wonderful.

The contest table looked mighty good. The talent found in the division never ceases to amaze and impress me. Please, keep those wonderful models coming. There is still room on the contest table for more entries. If need be, we'll add more tables. This is purely fun, so you are encouraged to jump in to the game. Remember, you get one point just for showing up. At the picnic, the top three contestants receive gift certificates to Scale Reproductions. This way, you can buy more supplies, enter more contests, get more gift certificates, ad infinitum. If you've ever wanted to be paid to have fun, here's your opportunity.

On the Achievement Program front, many of you are taking the opportunity to avail yourself of this. The AP program teaches and encourages you to be a better modeler. Where the contest table is a popularity vote,

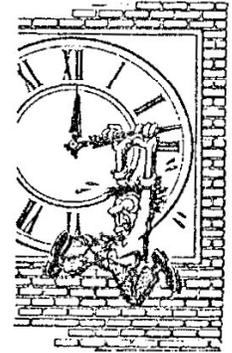
the AP program measures your efforts against a set of standards. Just getting feedback and guidance from the judges is invaluable. If you are curious if your model might qualify, just call the A.P. Chairman and ask to have him or another judge look over your work and provide a few pointers. These people are fellow modelers who want to see you grow in your skills. Call now. Judges are standing by!

Some of you, hopefully most of you, received an email reminder about the March division meeting. If you did not, please reach out to Tom Guenther and give him your email address. The Division 8 web site and email communication will be an ever more important part of our communications program. Likewise, the Division Directory is found on the web site in the Members Only area. There is a place for photos of your favorite models, layouts, even photos of yourself! Send what you have to Tom. This is your web site, there for your benefit.

Until we meet again,

Mark KY

TIMETABLE



April 10-11, K & I Club Open House, Buckner, KY

April 15, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM Airport Industrial Center

Apr 24, Saturday, Central Indiana Division Train Show, Bedford, IN

May 13-16, MCR Convention, Charleston, WV

May 22, Div 8 Meeting, Saturday, 2:00 PM, Cecil and Brenda Stewart, Bardstown, KY

Jun 17, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM, Bob and Ramona Johnson, KY

APRIL MEETING AT AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL CENTER

The April will be **Thursday April 15, 2010, 7:30 PM** at the AIR PORT INDUSTRIAL CENTER (former Naval Ordnance Plant). We will meet in Building 91; the Conference Center on Rochester Ave. Rochester Ave. can be accessed from either Southside Drive or Strawberry Lane. Turn south on Technology Drive (between the two 5 inch gun mounts) atop buildings on either side. The Conference Center is on the right and clearly marked. The program will be presented by Bob Johnson. Bob is planning an innovative hands-on clinic. The subject will be how to scenic a layout using a portable layout he has developed. Ruthie Lynch will provide the refreshments.

DIVISION WEB SITE

Some information gleaned from Webmaster Tom Guenther's website report. The site has had 251 individual visitors for a total of 2160 views. There are 19 different pages (or links) on the website. Most viewed page was "Division 8 NMRA" followed by "Louisville layouts" and "Pie Card". Interestingly, while 99.63% of the views originated in the United States, there were 5 from India, 2 from France, and 1 from Canada.

**NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 11 – JULY 17, 2010 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

Model Contest**APRIL**

May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February
March

PASSENGER CARS

Cabooses
Open Loads
No Contest
MOW Equipment
Photos
Steam Locomotives
Displays/Dioramas
No Contest
Freight
Diesels
Commercial Structures

CONTEST POINT STANDINGS

Bob Frankrone took first place with Tom Lindquist and Rick Maloney tying for second in the March Model Contest. The leaders as of now are: Rick Maloney with 20 points, Bob Frankrone with 18 points, and Jim Harrington with 12 points. Check the Division Website for a complete listing of point standings.

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K & I MODEL RAILROAD CLUB OPEN HOUSE

The K & I Model Railroad Club is having an open house at their Club House on Highway 146 in Buckner, Kentucky. The dates are Saturday and Sunday April 10 and 11. Times: Saturday 10 am to 4 pm; Sunday 11 am to 4 pm. Their HO train layout will be on display. Free Admission.

2010 MID CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

The 2010 Mid Central Region Convention, **THE COALFIELD EXPRESS**, will be held May 13-16, 2010 in Charleston, West Virginia. For information you can go to the Division 8 Web Site and follow the links or go to http://www.coaldivision.org/coalfield_express.html. You can also contact the convention registrar: registrar@coaldivision.org.

NMRA PHOTO CONTEST EXTENDED

The deadline has now been extended to August 31! In addition, the cab ride will now take place from Kansas City, MO, to Jefferson City, MO. To be eligible, your photo must be postmarked by August 31, 2010 (or originated in transit by a third party service such as FedEx or UPS), and received no later than April 20. Only one photograph may be submitted per envelope, but there's no limit to the number of photos you can submit. All photos become the property of the NMRA, which may use the photo in any manner it chooses. In addition, participants agree to provide the NMRA with the original medium of the photo (negative, transparency, or digital file) if requested. Send your entries to: Robert J. Amsler, Jr., 514 Dover Place, St. Louis, MO 63111. If you send a print, be sure

to protect it from bending! For complete information go to the NMRA website: <http://www.nmra.org/>. Under "What's New", click on 75th Anniversary Photo Contest

**AT THE MARCH MEETING**

The March Meeting was held Saturday Afternoon, March 20, at the Conference Center, Air Port Industrial Park. Two visitors were welcomed. It was election day! Russ Weis and Bob Johnson retired to another room to count the ballots while the meeting continued.

Mark Hedge reported that tables for the Train Show were sold out. Webmaster Tom Guenther reported on the website. Tom said there had been 251 visitors as of noon today.

Don Fowler thanked the Division for the flowers and those who expressed their condolences on the death of his mother.

Russ reported the results of the election: Superintendent, Mark Norman; Assistant Superintendent, Bruce Goreham; treasurer, Mike Berry; Clerk, Eric Waggoner.

Bob Kuchler provided refreshments, and Bob Dawson gave a program, "Railroads named Louisville".

The official minutes for the March Meeting are posted on our website.

WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

Division 8 is in the process of assembling photos of division activities, layouts, meetings, clinics, picnics, anything related to our wonderful hobby. Please send your digital photos to: kingpin@insightbb.com

The photos you share will become part of our Christmas entertainment and even on the division web site. Keep those photos coming in! This will go a long way in sharing with people just how much fun we are having.





Above left: Bob Frankrone took first place with his HO shop building. Above right: Tom Lindquist tied for second place with his HO packing plant. Below left, the other second place winner: Rick Maloney's N-Scale sand company. Below right, one of the other entries, Charlie Keeling's HO mill.



Above: Tom Guentner opened his layout to visitors after the meeting.



Above: Scenes from the Division Train Show and Sale. Check the division web site for more pictures.

ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY

The April contest is passenger cars. Below are pictures of a Derby special at Union Station last year.



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

The other day I was at a hobby store and, as usually happens, I began to have a conversation with another customer about trains. (It seems inevitable this will happen.) I mentioned a project I was working on, a car I hope to receive a Merit Award toward the Master Builder - Cars AP certificate. Well you would have thought I was talking about clubbing baby seals as his demeanor suddenly changed. "I was an NMRA member and it was the biggest waste of money I ever spent. It is a worthless organization!" was his response. Wow - I was taken aback but, sadly, this isn't the first time I heard this. I questioned him about his statement. It turns out he lived in several different places in the US and found that his expectations of what he believed the NMRA should be were lacking, namely assistance with developing model building skills and cliquish groups. Obviously he had never been a Division 8 member and I told him how most of my knowledge came from our members. He even mentioned lack of help with archives from HQ, which I told him simply was not true as I use them frequently. Nope, he wasn't hearing me. He was sure the NMRA was a waste of time.

So here's a modeler who was turned off by the NMRA. I have got to say there have been times my devotion to this organization has been tested too. There is one single reason. People. (Or is that many reasons?) People's opinions and personalities are the make or break of any organization, not just NMRA. I don't believe this is news to anybody reading this. These toxic personalities can manifest themselves in many forms. The rivet counter who looks down on anyone who is otherwise, the anti-rivet counter who gets all in-your-face-defensive about his freelanced pike as he describes it, the cliques you can't get in, the opinionated judge that holds to a ridiculous standard (these guys don't live here, though), the experienced modeler who criticizes

continued in column 2

continued from column 1

your work, put downs from those who think they're better than you for skill or economic reasons, those who think they're great modelers and feel threatened by a new budding modeler, and so on. You get the idea.

Face it, we're just big kids. We have expensive, sophisticated toys that unlock the magic of our youth which I believe is the draw to the hobby. At least that's my reasoning. So doesn't it appear that all the personality types I mentioned seem like schoolyard conflicts? I believe we all bring youthful emotions to the table (which I don't think is necessarily a bad thing) that comes with it more sensitive feelings. When someone assaults your avocation you take it personal since it has become the release and recreation of your life. Add the fact that you're pouring your artistic self into a project and the emotions are magnified. So we are probably much more sensitive to abrasive personalities in our hobby than at work. And this makes us vulnerable to saying "see ya" and leaving those abrasive personalities behind.

A year ago I asked everyone via this column to make a "New Years' Resolution" and I think we've done pretty darn good. I can't think of any major personality problems on the division level and this keeps me engaged in NMRA no matter what I may encounter outside the Division. Keep up the good work. But there's more work to be done. If you see yourself in any of those toxic personalities I mentioned do something about it. All of those guys, like the fellow in the hobby store, who had a bad experience (or experiences) are still out there and they are telling their buddies how bad NMRA is. Our greatest asset to drive membership is you the member. If you like the organization tell someone why. Why do you belong? There must be a reason and if it is good enough for you why should it not be good enough for someone else?

Bob Sobotka, Division 8 Membership Chairman

SPRING TRAIN SHOW A GREAT SUCCESS

The spring edition of the Division 8 Train Show and Sale was held on March 27. Tables were sold out and attendance was up from the Fall Show as well as the Spring 2009 Show. Chairman Bob Dawson thanks the following who helped make it a success. The Train Show Committee: Mark and Bobbi Hedge, Jerry Ashley, Bruce Goreham, Ray Rohmann, Don Fowler, Bob Sobotka, and Tom Guenther. Helping with dealer check in were: John Manning, Bob Kuchler, Rick Maloney, Patrick Hardesty, Jim Schmidt, and Herman Weir. Tom Lindquist and Tom Guenther also helped with the Friday night layout set up. Charlie Fackler and Ruthie Lynch handled the doors with help from Ray and Bruce. Ed Atkins helped Don Fowler with parking during the morning rush. Speaking of parking Don Fowler proved he was "captain" of the parking lot. Thanks also go to the Southern Indiana Railroad, and Radcliff Modelers who brought their train layouts. K & I Club again provided their test track. Falls Cities Live Steamers were unable to have the train rides but were able to set up a "Thomas the Tank" layout. And thanks of course to the dealers and customers. Without them there would be no show. A complete report should be ready for the April meeting.



Division 8, MCR, NMRA<http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/>

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 Jim Ward 502-836-3078

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 NMRA Achievement Program
 Joe Fields 502-964-2679
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