The Pie Card



Volume 54, December, 2020, Number 12

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Welcome to yet another month of change for Division 8.

I really should be writing about the upcoming Christmas Party, but we all know that's not happening this year.

I should also be writing about the Silver Spike award presentation but that already happened earlier this year. If you missed the November meeting or didn't watch the YouTube video of the meeting, you can read all about the award winner later in this issue.

TIME TABLE

Dec 12, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom. **Dec 19,** Sat 2PM, Div 8 Open Bull Session on Zoom.

Jan 9, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom Jan 16, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom Feb 13, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom Feb 20, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom

As usual, there is no Division 8 Business/General Membership Meeting in December. Here's where it really gets different. Mark Hedge suggested that we take the opportunity to hold what we're calling a "General Bull Session." We took him up on his suggestion and put him in charge of it.

You may be wondering, "What is a General Bull Session?" It's an opportunity for all of us to get together and talk about model railroading for an hour or two. It follows a mostly unstructured format. It's designed to be a free-flowing discussion of just about anything you're working on or want to work on or even model railroading things you don't want to work on. Discussion about prototype railroading is fair game for discussion as well. It's an informal way to catch up with other model railroaders about their recent model railroading efforts. The one structured item of business during the session will be to announce the winner of the holiday-themed modeling contest.

Minimally, Ron Ellison and Mark Hedge are running the General Bull Session. Ron will be the meeting host because someone has to get the Zoom meeting going for us. Mark's role will be to get the conversation started and to keep it going. But YOU are really in charge. YOU come up with what model railroading topics to talk about. YOU add your comments to the discussion. YOU learn from your fellow Division 8 modelers and YOU pass along your knowledge to the others. This event is for NMRA members only – no outside guests at this one. Feel free to invite friends from other Divisions or even other Regions, but only if their NMRA membership is current.

I hope you seriously consider joining us Saturday, December 19, 2020, at 2:00 PM (ET). The Zoom logon info will be sent soon. Who knows, you might learn something. Or teach someone something about model railroading. Or motivate someone to step out of their model railroading comfort zone. All three of us (Ron, Mark, and me) have attended similar sessions with other Mid Central Region Divisions. We think you'll enjoy the format as well and we hope to see you at Division 8's upcoming General Bull Session.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

Bob Dawson Division Clerk

The November meeting was held virtually via the Zoom video conferencing platform. The meeting opened with a video of the presentation of the 2020 Division 8 Silver Spike Award to Rick Wehr. Congratulations to Rick (photo and details on page 4).

The proposed changes to the Division 8 Bylaws were approved. Voting was conducted using the Participants Panel in Zoom to ensure only members voted.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Joe Fields, AP Chairman

Hi everyone, as we close out another year and reflect back on all the changes we have witnessed, one thing that has remained constant is our love for model railroading. It's been something to turn to for things to do, when we have been unable to do a lot of things we often take for granted. I hope you have been able to get some of those projects that have been sitting on the back burner started or completed. As for me, I'm working on my last category for MMR which is Scenery. I've made quite a bit of progress since the last Pie Card and I hope to complete the required footage before the end of December. In closing, I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and the hope that next year we will finally get back to a normal routine. As always, if you have something you need judged just phone or email me. (You can see Joe's scenery progress on this month's gathering. See page 7 of this issue for details.)

CHARLIE KEELING VIRTUAL MODEL CONTEST

Barry Christensen Contest Chairman

December JUST FOR FUN! January Freight cars

February Non-steam motive power

March Structures
April Passenger cars
May Cabooses
June Open loads
July NO CONTEST

August MOW equipment and highway vehicles September Photos (model) and photos (prototype)

October Steam locomotives

November Displays (no size limit)

The November Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest had five entries for the category of displays and dioramas. As always, this contest topic featured some very colorful and creative efforts. In addition, there was a good variety of subjects among the entries.

First time entrant Bruce DeMaeyer took first place with his Montana Flour Mill. Joe Fields was second with A J's Texaco. Bob Frankrone came in third with Sunrise Feed & Seed Company.

After relocating this year to Division 8 territory, T-Trak module expert Bruce DeMaeyer showed us how it's done with a scratch-built and detailed functioning example. His prototype inspiration is the Montana Flour Mills Company complex built in the early 1900's along the old Milwaukee Road Pacific Extension in fabled Harlowton, Montana.

Joe Fields now has the uncontested lead with 11 points, Bob Frankrone following with 10, and Russ Weis next with 8 points. Craig Hatter and Kevin Jones are tied with 7 points each. Rick Geerts has 6, Bruce DeMaeyer and Steve Lasher have 4 each, Ron Ellison has 3, and Daryl Arend and Eric Waggoner have 1 each.

Although there will be no general meeting in December (virtual or otherwise), and our holiday banquet has been cancelled, there will be a first-time Special Holiday Model Contest, just for fun! The contest theme will be "Holiday-Themed Locomotives, Rolling Stock, Structures or Displays." No contest points will be awarded but a \$25 Scale Reproductions store gift card will be given to the modeler of the entry with the most votes (no second or third place prizes). In the event of a tie, the contest chairperson will break the tie. Entry and voting will be run just like the regular monthly model contest. The results will be announced at the virtual Bull Session gathering on Saturday, December 19th. (continued in column 2)



NO MEETING IN DECEMBER-BULL SESSION INSTEAD

A special virtual Division 8 "Bull Session" will be held on Zoom, Saturday, December 19 at 2 PM. It will be an open discussion with no agenda hosted by Mark Hedge and Ron Ellison. To maintain the security of the meeting, connection information will be sent directly to members by email about a week prior to the meeting and will not be published online.

CONTEST (continued)

If you need more information, go here - http://div8-mcr-mmra.org/site/html/contest.html . To enter the December Contest, email 1 to 3 entry photos along with the Contest Entry Form as a PDF file to

<u>division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com</u></u>. Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions or comments, email <u>division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com</u>.

We will publish the Contest timeline dates each month in The Pie Card. The judging is strictly people's choice. If you would also like your model to be judged for the Achievement Program, contact Joe Fields and he will arrange to have AP judges assist.

We will send out a reminder but below are some of the Contest timeline dates for December:

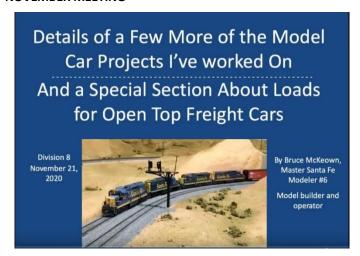
- December 5th First day to submit entries
- December 12th Last day to submit entries
- December 16th Members will receive the contest entries
- December 17th & 18th Voting in Groups.io, email to Division 8 or phone, text, SMS
- December 19th Winners announced at the Bull Session - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Stan White Membership Chairman

As of October 31, 2020, we currently have 130 members in Division 8 of the NMRA. We had eight members that were up for membership renewal as of October 31st. We have reached out to all eight and encouraged them to renew their membership and to stay engaged in the greatest hobby in the world. We can all share this hobby by reaching out to those who might show an interest but don't know how to get connected. Let's keep the hobby alive.

NOVEMBER MEETING



Left: November Clinic by Bruce McKeown, featuring some of his freight cars from Santa Fe and other prototypes, as employed on his 1967 AT&SF layout.

Photo: Screen Shot from Zoom meeting video.

CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST



The November Contest was display's and dioramas.

Left:

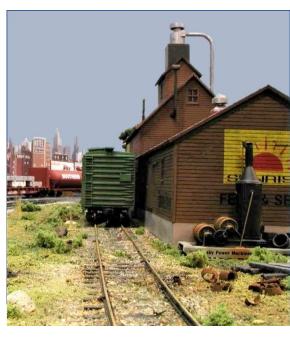
FIRST PLACE

First time entrant Bruce DeMaeyer took first place with his Montana Flour Mill.

Below:

SECOND PLACE

Joe Fields was second with his HO scale A J's Texaco.





Left:

THIRD PLACE

Bob Frankrone came in third with his HO scale Sunrise Feed & Seed Company.

RICK WEHR IS AWARDED THE SILVER SPIKE FOR 2020



My Path to the Silver Spike

By Rick Wehr

I joined Division 8 in 2012 when I became a member of The K & I Model Railroad Club. In 2013 Jack Diehl had four jobs in the Division, so Jack requested Jerry Ashley who was the superintendent of the Division to help find some replacements. Jerry and Jack were also members of the K & I and they asked me to take over the Illness and Bereavement Committee (aka Member Welfare). I have sent out gift cards and sympathy notes since that time. I got my first AP certificate as a Volunteer a couple of years ago.

I am very pleased to have been selected to receive the Silver Spike for service to Division 8 this year. I would like to share some of the credit for my service with Mike Berry's wife Theresa, who prints all of the cards and envelopes we send out

MID CENTRAL REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

By Fred Soward, Division 8 Superintendent

The most recent Mid Central Region (MCR) Kingpin newsletter included a copy of the minutes of the October 23, 2020 MCR BoD meeting and the reports from all MCR Divisions. These are my condensed notes that I took during that MCR BoD meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about what I've shared here. The MCR BoD members and Committee Chairs also provided reports in advance of the meeting. If you'd like to view any of those, please contact me because they are behind a password protected page on the MCR website.

Coping with the Pandemic didn't need to be a separate agenda item as it touched nearly everything we talked about in some way. A request was made for a basic Zoom tutorial by some of us who have made it work well for our Divisions; Jerry Doyle, Matt Goodman, and I were tasked to make that happen. We've had a couple sessions, and will continue our efforts to get all Divisions on board with virtual meetings in other ways over the next few months.

Dave Neff (MCR Vice President) had cancelled the project to gather clinician names and clinic topics across the Region because of the lack of submissions. With the new education initiative at the NMRA and MCR level (discussed later), he's starting it up again. It's in our best interest to participate so that we can more easily have access to clinicians across the Region. I'll be talking about it when he gets it going again.

Dave Williams (Kingpin Editor) is on the lookout for photographs and short-ish articles for publication in the Kingpin. Contact him directly if you're interested. If you're working on your Author AP, your submissions that appear in a Region newsletter count double above a Division newsletter.

Paul Novak (MCR Membership Chair) led a brief discussion about membership challenges in our current environment. Another issue discussed at length was how to promote the hobby and the NMRA, focus on the benefits of membership, and not give away everything we offer for free and without a membership commitment. As you see from my Superintendent's column this month, a recent step we've taken in that regard is making the December 19 Open Bull Session a members-only event.

There was continued discussion about the NMRA's youth/at-risk persons policy. We talked about it during a couple of Division 8 meetings late last year, and we've provided a copy to every member through email, so that should not be news. (continued on page 5)

MID CENTRAL REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

(continued from Page 4)

Copyright concerns have become an issue at the NMRA National level because of the number of YouTube videos being posted as a result of the NMRA-x events. There are some basic cautions about what to do and what not to do. Bottom line – if you don't own the image/content and if you don't have permission from the owner, you really shouldn't be using it in your clinics and writings. As we reported during the November 2020 Division 8 meeting, Paul Downs was proactive and wrote a one-page guidance document about this. You can find it in the members section on the Division 8 website.

The Indy Junction 2022 Convention has made little-to-no progress in the last few months. There are many reasons for that, but now that some decisions about the 2022 NMRA National Convention have been made (St Louis in September or October 2022), planning for Indy Junction 2022 is once again moving forward. Bruce DeMaeyer and I are both committee chairs and on the Board of Directors for this convention. Ron Ellison is working closely with me on the media/advertising/publicity committee – we could use some help, so feel free to jump up and volunteer!

An NMRA working group is scheduled to begin work early 2021 on a Region President Handbook similar in nature to the Division Superintendent/President Handbook that was developed several years ago. The group has been delayed a couple times. Ask me offline and I'll fill you in on the details. Dave Neff and I are on that committee.

There are several NMRA education initiatives in process that you should know about because they have direct impact at both the Region and Division. The NMRA is using three action plans to manage the efforts:

- 1. The first is a short-range action plan that directs each NMRA Region to establish an Education Committee by March 2021. The focus of each Region Education Committee is to implement the two long range action plans within their Region. The Mid Central Region Education Committee was established on June 14, 2020 with Steve Zapytowski (Division 1) as the lead with Dennis Vaccaro (Division 2), Jim Whipple (Division 2), Kenton Colvin (Division 2), and me (Division 8) as members of the committee. We held our first meeting October 24.
- 2. The second is a long-range action plan about EduTRAIN®. Although it has been around for quite a while, there's been very little recent activity. The goal of this action plan is to have each NMRA Region submit at least two clinics each year for consideration as EduTRAIN® clinics. For more information about EduTrain® -https://www.nmra.org/edutrain
- 3. The third is a long-range action plan about Modeling with the Masters® (MWTM). It is specifically about certifying Master Model Railroader® (MMR) members as instructors for MWTM. The goal is to have at least two MMRs certified within each region by June 2021.

Here's where you fit into these NMRA education initiatives – the MCR Education Committee is looking for existing clinics that could be adapted for inclusion into the EduTRAIN® family of clinics. For our Master Model Railroaders®, there's an additional ask to consider becoming certified as a Modeling with the Masters® instructor. Contact me directly or contact Steve Zapytowski and we'll get you pointed in the right direction.

Lastly, because there was only one candidate per position for the MCR BoD Election, the following people were elected by acclamation (no ballot required) and were to take office at the next MCR BoD meeting during the 2021 MCR Convention. Elected are: Dave Neff (President), Jerry Doyle (Vice President), Fred Soward (Secretary), and John Shields (Treasurer). As stated, both were scheduled to be held during the 2021 MCR Convention but with that cancelled (see below) they will be virtual and the dates may change.

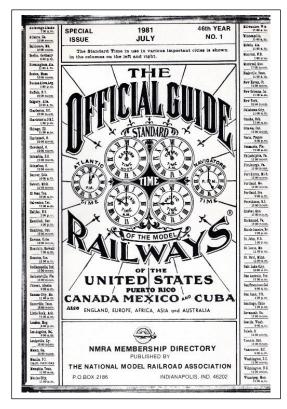
2021 MID CENTRAL CONVENTION CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From Division 12 and the Northern Express Convention Committee

The Division 12 convention committee (and board of directors) has reached the difficult decision to cancel the *Northern Express*, the Mid Central Region convention, planned for May 20--23, 2021 in Erie. We did not make this decision lightly. After much discussion, we realized that the unknowns were too many for us to continue to hope to host the event.

SOME FACTS ABOUT STANDARD TIME (once known in the US as "Railroad Time")

By Rick Tipton



Before "standard time", locales of any size set their clocks to "solar time"; noon was when the sun was directly overhead. Many jewelers set their display clocks to their own observation, and a town of any size might have any number of slightly different "local times". When railroad operations became more than local, and train movements were regulated by timetable, this became inconvenient and sometimes disastrous. At the very least, lots of people missed their train's departure.

Scientists, map-makers, and others gradually fixed upon the idea that time needed to be set from a "prime meridian", with the world divided into time zones, usually one hour apart.

However, in the 18th century most countries in Europe adapted their own prime meridian, usually through their capital, hence in France the Paris meridian was prime, in Germany it was the Berlin meridian, in Denmark the Copenhagen meridian, and in the United Kingdom the Greenwich meridian. The Greenwich meridian was designated at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, downriver from downtown London England, in 1884.

The US Naval Observatory in Washington DC, using astronomical observations, sent out precise time signals for the United States; by the 1870's these signals were distributed via Western Union. Still, until 1883, each United States railroad chose its own time standards. The Pennsylvania Railroad used the "Allegheny Time" system, an astronomical timekeeping service which had been developed by Samuel Pierpont Langley at the University of Pittsburgh's Allegheny Observatory (then known as the Western University of Pennsylvania). Instituted in 1869, the

Allegheny Observatory's service is believed to have been the first regular and systematic system of time distribution to railroads and cities as well as the origin of the modern standard time system. By 1870 the Allegheny Time service extended over 2,500 miles with 300 telegraph offices receiving time signals.

At the same time, almost all railroads out of New York ran on New York time, and railroads west from Chicago mostly used Chicago time, but between Chicago and Pittsburgh/Buffalo the norm was Columbus time, even on railroads which did not run through Columbus, such as the Pittsburgh Ft. Wayne & Chicago (PRR controlled) and the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern (NYC controlled). The Santa Fe Railroad used Jefferson City (Missouri) time all the way to its west end at Deming, New Mexico, as did its east—west lines across Texas; Central Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads used San Francisco time all the way to El Paso. The Northern Pacific Railroad had seven time zones between St. Paul and the 1883 west end of the railroad at Wallula Jct.WA The Union Pacific Railway was at the other extreme, with only two time zones between Omaha and Ogden.

In 1870, Charles F. Dowd had proposed four time zones based on the meridian through Washington, DC for North American railroads. In 1872, he revised his proposal to base it on the Greenwich meridian. By 1886, the Railroad Passenger Agents (one predecessor of today's AAR) set up North American time zones based on Greenwich Mean Time.

Standard time was not enacted into US law until the 1918 Standard Time Act established standard time in time zones. Originally, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky (and extreme western parts of Pennsylvania and New York) were in Central Time, six hours earlier than Greenwich Mean Time. However, since then Eastern Time (five hours earlier than GMT) has been adopted in stages all the way west to its current extent (west of Louisville and in almost all of Indiana).

It is said that Louisville changed from Central Time to Eastern in the Fifties because of GE's Appliance Park reporting to New York. One of the effects of Louisville being on Eastern Time so far west is that its solar noon is around 12:26 pm EST/1:26 EDT.

references:

Wikipedia "Standard Time", "Standard Time in the United States", "US Naval Observatory", "Royal Observatory, Greenwich" PRR Chronology by Chris Baer of the Hadley Library

Editor's note. For many years the Official Guide to Railways (published monthly by the National Railway Publication Company) cover featured a display of time zone clocks. Look close at the above illustration. This is an "NMRA" version of the Official Guide. This was a directory of all of the members of NMRA with their name, address, and phone number cross referenced by state or country.

From the Division 8 Media Committee:

DECEMBER ZOOM GATHERING

On Saturday December 12, 2020, 2:00 PM we will gather again for the Division 8 ZOOM Gathering. This month the presenters will be in the following order:

- Steve Lasher Signals Part 2
- Russ Weis Batavia Freight House rebuild
- Joe Fields Layout scenery update

Each presentation will be approximately 20 minutes including a short Q & A by each presenter. Zoom meeting information will be sent out a few days before the gathering. If you need help connecting, email divsion8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and someone from the Media Committee will help you. We look forward to seeing you on December 12th!

DECEMBER OPEN BULL SESSION

The date will be December 19th from 2 to 4 PM. It will have an open format with no agenda. See Page 8 of this issue for more information.

KEEP CONNECTED

These are the ways for Division 8 members to stay in touch and together:

- Groups.io
- Join us on Zoom for a virtual meeting General Meeting and Monthly Gathering
- Division 8 Facebook
- Division 8 Webpage

Ever wonder what you're missing by not joining Groups.io? Why not join for a while and take a look. You can unsubscribe at the footer of any Groups.io message. But you have to ask for an invitation because it's a closed group. Send your request to - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com. We are usually online 30 minutes before the start of any Zoom meeting so if you are unsure of your connection, join early. Or we will help you login on your computer, tablet or smartphone if you contact us at - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com a few days before any meeting. Virtual meetings are here to stay. Get Connected!

TO ZOOM OR NOT TO ZOOM...

By Barbara Soward

Do you miss seeing your model railroad friends in person? Do you miss gathering at the 600 Building one Saturday a month for model railroad food, fun, and fellowship? If so, you are not alone. And unfortunately, it looks like it will be awhile before we can gather again in person. Soon, it will be a year since our last in person meeting. It's very hard to believe, but true.

The good news is that our leadership team (aka the Division 8 Board of Directors) has led the way in the Mid Central Region and has been an example for other Divisions to follow by stepping up early on in this pandemic, offering alternative options for camaraderie. When meeting, train show, and convention cancellations began spreading like wildfire, the board recognized that something had to be done to maintain continuity of operations, to borrow some business terminology. Kind of a disaster recovery plan. And jump into action they did! A Zoom license was purchased, practice sessions were offered, and the first Zoom meeting was held in April. A second informal monthly meeting was established and the Division 8 "Gathering" was born in June. Since the annual Christmas party has now been cancelled, an informal "Bull Session" Zoom event has been scheduled for December 19. The contests continue in a virtual setting as well.

If you haven't participated in a Division 8 Zoom event, you are missing out! Even though you can go back and listen to the sessions after the fact, it's not quite the same as being there in real time. The meetings are hosted/co-hosted by Fred Soward and Ron Ellison, and the sessions are generally up and running 30 minutes prior to the stated start time, giving participants an opportunity to just visit with one another! Joining the Zoom meetings is as simple as clicking the link in the invitation. The meetings are by invitation only; you will be identified and admitted to the meeting by the host/co-host. You can choose to be on camera or off camera, to speak or not to speak.

If you haven't yet attended a Division 8 Zoom event, I encourage you to give it a try! Based on the continued increase in positive COVID-19 cases, I think we are in this virtual-meeting-only environment for quite some time, so take advantage of the Zoom opportunities to safely stay in contact with your fellow model railroaders until we are able to once again meet in person.

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Division 8, MCR, NMRA

http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/

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To contact a Division Officer, Trustee, or Committee Director by email use: Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook at:

http://www.facebook.com/Division8.MCR.NMRA/

THE PIE CARD

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Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month.



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME BULL?

Join us for the 1st Official Division 8 Bull Session Saturday December 19, 2020 @ 2:00 PM

- No agenda An open discussion about model railroading & prototype railroading
- · Talk about what you're working on
- · Talk about what you'd like to work on
- Talk about what's stopping you from
- · Ask for help with what you're working on
- · Share a new technique you discovered
- Spend time with like minded people
- · And we'll announce the December SPECIAL Contest winner

THE COMPANY STORE IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

24/7/365. Shop anytime here - http://div8-mcrnmra.org/site/html/store.html.

You can email your order to Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com. Or you can call or text your order to (502) 653-5371. We will confirm your order and email you back an itemized invoice and then pay online with your credit card.

If you weren't able to get to the last Celebration Station, we can ship you sanitizer. Each member is entitled to 1 FREE bottle. Additional bottles are 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10 the best value.

Because we won't be meeting face to face through at least the middle of 2021, pickup of Company Store merch is no longer possible. We will ship your order via USPS and invoice you for postage at the least expensive rate along with your merch.

Amazon has nothing on us. We can deliver right to your door via USPS. But you can't wear your Division 8 Company Store duds unless you place an order. A hat, shirt or fleece is a conversation starter about the model railroading hobby. Spread some joy!