

# The Pie Card

Volume 54, January, 2020, Number 1



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



## **From the Superintendent's Desk**

*By Fred Soward*

Happy New Year, Division 8! Welcome to a new year of model railroading. Last year was another amazing year of growth and change for the division and for the model railroad clubs in our area.

Looking ahead to 2020, I see a lot of exciting

opportunities as well as a few challenges for all of us this year.

We'll continue our Spring (March 21) and Fall (November 14) Train Show & Sale events at our new venue. We can always use a few more helping hands during the Train Show & Sale. Be sure to check out Ron Ellison's article in this issue for more details about how you can be a part of these events.

The annual Division 8 picnic planning is just about wrapped up. We hope to be able to give a full rundown at the January meeting. For this year's event, on July 25, we will be going to a new venue with the Indiana Live Steamers group in Columbus, IN.

Louisville Train Day is making a return this year! As of this writing, it's looking like we'll go for two days, September 19-20, at the same venue we use for the Train Show & Sale. As before, this will be a free event open to everyone, running trains on modular layouts, with a focus on educating the public about model railroading. We'll be looking for volunteers to help with this, so stay tuned!

It seems like a long way off, but we've already started talking about next year's Christmas Party. It'll probably be at the Louisville Airport Crowne Plaza again, on December 12.

We are lucky to have a great selection of conventions this year, all within a reasonable day's drive – The 2020 Mid Central Region Convention, hosted by Division 2 in Pittsburgh, PA, is scheduled for May 28-31 (<https://www.keystonedivision.org/convention/index.html>). The NMRA National Convention, Gateway 2020, in St Louis, MO, will be July 12-18 (<http://www.gateway2020.org/>). The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention is also in St Louis, MO, September 2-5 (<http://www.40nngc.com>).

Don't forget to add the monthly Division 8 meetings to your calendar. Russ Weis is working hard to make sure we have interesting and informative clinics as well as have a home or club layout visit linked into every monthly meeting this year.

The track gang in the basement is hollering at me, so that's it for now. I need to get busy building more turnouts.



## **2019 DIVISION 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Division 8 Christmas Party was held at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Hotel.

Members and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner followed by the Silver Spike Award presentation.

More Christmas Party photos on Page 3.

## **TIME TABLE**

**Jan 11-12** Great Train Show, Ky. Expo Center.

**Jan 18**, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

**Feb 15**, Sat 2 PM, Antique & Toy Mall

**Mar 19**, Thu 7 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600

Room.

**Mar 21**, Sat 10 to 3 Div 8 Train Show

**Apr 18**, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600

Room.

**CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST***Barry Christensen Contest Chairmen*

<b>January</b>	<b>Freight Cars</b>
February	Diesel Locomotives
March	Structures
April	Passenger Cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open Loads
July	NO CONTEST
August	MOW Equipment
September	Photos
October	Steam Locomotives
November	Displays/Dioramas
December	NO CONTEST

There was no model contest in December due to the annual holiday gathering.

2019 ended with these contest standings: Joe Fields is first with 13 points; Rick Geerts is second with 10; Bill Lynch is third with 8; Steve Lasher with 5; Daryl Arend, Kevin Jones and Bob Johnson with 3; Edward Brennan, John Stoltz and Russ Weis with 2; and Bob Frankrone, Bob Kuchler, Mark Norman and Stan White with 1.

The contest at the January 2020 meeting will be for freight cars. There will be blank contest entry forms for anyone who needs one at the meeting. You can save yourself some time at the meeting by downloading the entry form from the Division 8 website and completing it prior to arriving at the meeting.

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 present.

**BOB FRANKRONE-JANUARY NMRA MAGAZINE**

By Bob Dawson

Congratulations to Bob Frankrone upon the third anniversary for his monthly column, "Love Those Loads!" being published in the NMRA Magazine.

In the January issue Bob describes entering his first contest at a Division 8 meeting in 1987.

Check out Bob's article and hopefully it will inspire you to enter the monthly Charlie Keeling Model Contest.

(Editor's note: Bob articles were first published in the Pie Card.)

**JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION**

The January meeting is Saturday January 18, 2:00 PM at the 600 Room, first floor of the 600 Building, 600 N. Hurstbourne Pkwy. 40222. Use the Whittington Pkwy. entrance. Program: Bob Frankrone. Rick Maloney's layout will be open following the meeting. Directions will be available at the meeting. Russ Weis is providing refreshments.

**DIVISION 8 ELECTIONS**

One trustee plus all officer positions are up for election. The Nominating Committee will make its report at the January Meeting. Following their report nominations may be made from the floor. Any regular member may make nominations from the floor. No second is required, but no nominations can be made without the nominee's knowledge or consent. Ballots will be mailed after the January meeting. Ballots will be counted and the results announced at the March meeting.

**GREAT TRAIN SHOW-LOUISVILLE**

The Great Train Show will again visit Louisville. The dates are Saturday and Sunday January 11-12, 2020. Hours are 10AM to 4 PM both days. Adult admission is \$10.00 on Saturday - Good for BOTH DAYS! And \$9.00 on Sunday. Look for the Division 8 information booth at the show. Save 20% by buying your ticket(s) online. Use "nmra20" in the PROMO CODE box. Just Google "great train show louisville"

**MAINTENANCE TIES FUND 2020**

The Maintenance Ties Fund helps underwrite the Member Welfare Fund and the printing of the Pie Card for those members who don't have access to a computer. The Member Welfare Fund provides a gift certificate to a member or spouse who has been hospitalized. It is also used for an expression of sympathy upon the death of a member or a member's spouse.

**Gateway 2020**

The 2020 NMRA National Convention will be held July 12-18 in St. Louis, Missouri

For information go to <https://www.gateway2020.org>

PHOTOS FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Left: Fred Soward presents Brenda Stewart with the 2019 Silver Spike Award. Brenda was recognized for her service to NMRA, Mid-Central Region and Division 8.

Photo by Barbara Soward



Right: Bob and Ramona Johnson brought many of their Christmas railroad displays for everyone to enjoy and made them free to anyone to take home. At the end of the night there was nothing on the table!



## TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 30TH YEAR



By Ron Ellison, Train Show and Sale Chairman

We are beginning our next campaign for the Spring 2020 Train Show & Sale that takes place on March 21st. Our Fall 2019 Show was a huge success in our new venue and we want to keep the momentum rolling.

We will once again be offering early entry to NMRA members with current membership card in hand at 9:00 AM. The Show is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Admission continues to be \$6. We will have 95 dealer tables plus Information Stations and layouts along with food for sale by the

Holy Family Parish.

We need YOU to volunteer to help staff the Show. Help is needed with setup the evening before the Show, help with our dealers before the Show, and teardown after the Show. We will have a volunteer signup sheet at the January meeting. If you'd like to volunteer before then, just let me know. Email [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com). Or tell me at the meeting. Trust me - I won't forget your request to help out.

Even if you are unable to volunteer, please, please, please attend the Show. Your support is needed and appreciated. There is no cost to be a member of Division 8. We receive no funds from any source, including Mid Central Region or NMRA. Because of this, the Train Show & Sale is the only source of revenue for everything we do in Division 8 throughout the year.

### GO WEST YOUNG MAN

By Steve Lasher, Photo by Russ Weis

OK, so it's a couple of old guys out on a lark. In any case on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>, Russ Weis and I set out for Paducah in far western Kentucky with railroad things in mind.

This involved a trek down the Western Kentucky Parkway and I must give Mother Nature her due. I remember when the Parkway was brand new and the terms "strip mine" and "reclamation" had never met. Nature has done a remarkable job of hiding the grotesque scars from the extensive surface mining that took place roughly between the Caneyville and Dawson Springs exits.

Our first destination was the Paducah Railroad Museum, which not surprisingly, is Illinois Central themed. After I got to know it, I always thought that Illinois Central was sort of the Rodney Dangerfield of railroads. It got no respect, at least not as much as it deserved for being a well-run property.

As railroad museums go, the Paducah Railroad Museum is mostly standard fare i.e. old headlights, etc. EXCEPT – it has a room fixed with half an EMD locomotive cab including a control stand (probably from a GP30/35/early 40) with working controls and speedometer that's connected to a computer simulator screen that you see out the front cab window. It's one hell of a toy and as close to actually running a train as you can get (See Russ's piece on page 6 for more details) and...it's free (Well, at least for the modest admission fee)! Worth stopping in for if you're in town.

Close by is 1518. She's a Lima built 2-8-2 in the Harriman mold that IC liked so much she and most of her sisters underwent two major shoppings at Paducah. The last one was in 1951 when she was given new cast steel cylinders that included the brackets for the air compressors and pilot beam. If you look between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> drivers you can see where the castings were welded to the old frame – no small tribute to the skill of the Paducah shopmen.

The next stop was Bill Harris's "Classic Trains and Ferraris" shop in Lone Oak, KY. If there's a car or kit that's been made in the last 40 years, Bill is likely to have it. Not to mention full size steam locomotive erection drawings, books and, dining car china. Most likely, Bill will be at the Great American Train Show here in January. Stop by and say hello.





**CHRISTMAS IS TRAIN TIME**

Over the years a tradition of showing trains during the Christmas Holidays has taken hold.

Left: Dennis Sanders (foreground) and Bob Johnson with their large Lionel layout at the annual Christmas and Décor Show at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Bob began displaying a layout at the show thirty years ago. For the last several years he has been partnering with Dennis. Bob reports that this is the last year he and Dennis will participate; Bob says it's becoming too much work to set it up and take it down.

*Photo by Bob Dawson*

Right:

Liza Helton running trains on the K & I Model Railroad Club Travelling layout at the Southwest Regional Library.

The club's layout was set up from December 23 to January 5 at the Library.

*Photo by Bob Dawson*



**CSX SANTA TRAIN**



For the 77<sup>th</sup> time, the CSX Santa Train departed Pikeville, Kentucky. Leaving early Saturday morning November 23, 2019, the train embarked on a 110-mile expedition covering track in Kentucky, Virginia and finally arriving in Kingsport, TN more than nine hours later. The special uses tracks of the former C&O and Clinchfield railroads.

Photo from the Santa Train Facebook page.

**LOCOMOTIVE SIMULATOR**

By Russ Weis

Recently Steve Lasher and I went to Western Kentucky to visit the Paducah Railroad Museum. In comparison to other museums that I have visited they didn't have anything outstanding, except for a locomotive simulator.



Steve believes it to be something like a GP30 - - close enough, with no motion, but pretty realistic sounds. The graphics are not bad, but once you notch up the throttle and start monitoring the speedometer you get the idea you're driving a twenty-car train.

The museum has an employee that will show you the basics, but there is no substitute for having a retired engineer like Steve to really show you how it was done.

Left: Steve Lasher back in the saddle again, sort of! *Photo by Russ Weis*

I know many of you have thought about being in control of a mile long-train, but when you actually start running one, even a simulated one, I found out there is a lot to consider. Such as, if half your train is descending a grade, how much brake do you apply, if any?

How about bringing that one hundred car train to a stop for a red signal? We certainly need to stop before the signal, so how far before the signal do we need to start our speed reduction? In my hour of simulated engineer time I learned there is lots of planning that

has to be done from departing the yard to stopping our train at its destination.

If you want to drive a real locomotive you'll have to head further west to Portola, California where the Western Pacific Railroad Museum is located. Like at Charlotte with NASCAR, for a fee you can drive two different diesels, unfortunately just in the yard, but it's still lots of fun.

Right: Jim Petro at the controls at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum. *Photo by Russ Weis*



It really hits home what an engineer had to contend with, doing switching moves while looking back past the long hood watching for the brakeman's hand signals.

If you can't make it to either of these museums, ask Steve out for lunch some day and he'll be glad to tell you stories that undoubtedly will have you saying, "really." I know I do, every time Steve and I get together.



Regional Convention

Hosted by: Keystone Division 2, MCR, NMRA

## STEEL CITY EXPRESS 2020 Mid Central NMRA Region Convention! May 28-31, 2020

MCR

EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A GREAT CONVENTION, AND MORE!

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Banquet - White Elephant Tables - Door Prizes - Railfanning

For details and registration information go to:

<https://www.keystonedivision.org/convention/index.html>, or go to the Division 8 website, click on links, and Div. 2 (Keystone Div) website.

**STREET RUNNING TO RETURN TO NEW ALBANY**



It was reported on December 20 by the (Jeffersonville & New Albany) News and Tribune that CSX is in the process of repairing and where needed replacing the old MONON Tracks through New Albany, IN. The rails run from the K & I Bridge through portions of the eastern part of the city, running along East 15th Street and eventually making their way to Grant Line Road.

Left: Street crossing replacement on Beeler Street. Photo by Noah Chappell

CSX will use the tracks to make deliveries to and from the Northwest Ordinance Distilling plant, which was previously home to Pillsbury. Northwest Ordinance Distilling bottles alcohol products for parent company Sazerac.

Right: In earlier days a south bound SOO Freight is exercising its trackage rights on CSX in New Albany. The train is on East 15<sup>th</sup> Street and heading for Youngtown Yard via the K&I Bridge. Photo from Bob Dawson collection.



**TRACK SIDE LEBANON JUNCTION, KY**



Bob Dawson found L & N Caboose 6626 on display in a small park in Lebanon Junction, KY. While it resembles a transfer caboose in design, it was built for mainline service. It is one of 50 cars built for the L&N by Fruit Growers Express in 1981.

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

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To contact a Division Officer, Trustee, or Committee Director by email use:  
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<http://www.facebook.com/Division8.MCR.NMRA/>

**THE PIE CARD**

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

## TRAIN SHOW & SALE

### OUR 30TH YEAR



**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
 Holy Family Parish Saffin Center  
 3938 POPLAR LEVEL RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40213

- Model Trains in All Scales
- Operating Layouts and Displays
- Retail Sales
- Information Stations
- Hourly Door Prizes!
- Great Food & Beverages
- FREE Parking

**ADMISSION**

\$6.00 Per Person – Children 12 and under free with an adult  
**NMRA members can enter the show at 9:00 AM**  
**with your current membership card in hand**

Dealer Tables available - \$30 per table

Sponsored by Division 8 - Mid Central Region - NMRA

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

Website: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>  
 Facebook: @Division8.MCR.NMRA

## DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE

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 Shirts, Fleece Jackets,  
 and Baseball Caps  
 For selections, prices,  
 and order form, go to:  
[div8-mcr-nmra.org](http://div8-mcr-nmra.org) and  
 click on "Company  
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