

The Pie Card

Volume 55, January, Number 1

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Is it really 2021? What happened to 2020? Wait. No. Don't tell me. Everyone already knows!

The Division 8 Board of Directors met in early December 2020 to talk about planning for 2021. We made a few assumptions based on what we were hearing and reading in the news.

We believe certain things must occur for us to be able to safely meet face-to-face. The three most critical elements are government restrictions being lifted, a vaccine being implemented for everyone in our group who wants to attend the meetings, and our members having a significant comfort level to meet face-to-face for our events.

Based on the above, we believe there is a 50/50 chance that we will be able to have a Division 8 picnic on July 31, 2021. We believe the same is true for a return to face-to-face monthly Business/General meetings beginning in August 2021. We feel more strongly, with an 80% probability, that we will be able to have the November 13 Train Show and Sale and the December 4 Christmas party. While a lot can happen between now and those dates, we have reserved The Depot Railroad Museum in Salem, Indiana for the picnic, we have a contract with Holy Family Parish at the Saffin Center for the Train Show and Sale, and as previously reported we have an updated contract with the Airport Crowne Plaza for the Christmas party.

As we move through the year, we will continue to assess our options for face-to-face events. We have set a "Go/No-Go" date of April 22 for the picnic and July 22 for the Train Show & Sale.

When we resume face-to-face meetings, we plan to continue offering a virtual option. We believe that makes sense for several reasons, especially if someone is away from the L'ville area or is otherwise unable to travel to the meeting because of illness. We will continue to post a reduced (edited) version of meetings and clinics to YouTube. We also plan to continue holding monthly Gathering events virtually through at least the end of 2021. For now, and until we can make the decision to safely resume face-to-face meetings, all meetings are listed as virtual-only on the Division 8 Timetable.

What are your thoughts about the BoD's assumptions and plans? Are you ready to step up and take a leading role in the planning for the picnic or the Christmas party? We'd love to hear from you!

FIRST VIRTUAL DIVISION 8 "BULL SESSION" EVENT

By Fred Soward

We did it. Division 8 held its first virtual "Bull Session" Saturday, December 19, 2020. Fifteen of us got together for about an hour and 40 minutes on a Zoom call to talk about model and prototype railroad topics. Larry Smith, Division 10 Superintendent, joined us. It was a mostly free flowing, open forum discussion about the world's greatest hobby and allowed us to catch up with each other in a ridiculously informal setting. The conversation moved along at a pretty quick pace and covered a wide range of topics from prototype railroads, model releases, and remembering former layouts in the Louisville area, to Kevin Jones' latest update on his "mad scientist" laser cutter project (he's making Christmas Tree ornaments). At least 24 or more topics were discussed.

We also announced the results of December's "Just for Fun" modeling contest. You can view all the results on the Division 8 Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry and to everyone who voted.

If you're hoping to watch the Bull Session on the Division 8 YouTube channel, you won't find it there because we intentionally decided to NOT record it. As we'd said prior to the event, the Division 8 Bull Session events are open to NMRA members ONLY as a benefit of membership. Uploading a video of the event to YouTube would negate that. We've already scheduled the next quarterly Division 8 Bull Session for 2:00 PM, Saturday, March 13, 2021 in lieu of the March Gathering. For everyone who wasn't there, we missed you! Hope you can join us next time.

Thanks to Mark Hedge for hosting the event and to Ron Ellison for being the technology host.

TIME TABLE

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

Mar 13, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

Mar 20, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom

Mar 28, Sun 1-3PM Celebration Station,
600 Bldg. Parking Lot

CHARLIE KEELING VIRTUAL MODEL CONTEST*Barry Christensen Contest Chairman*

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)
December	NO CONTEST

The December Virtual Model Contest was a first-time Special Holiday Model Contest, just for fun! The contest theme was “Holiday-Themed Locomotives, Rolling Stock, Structures or Displays.” No contest points were awarded but the results were announced at the virtual Bull Session gathering on Saturday, December 19th.

There were four entries, with Bob Frankrone earning an honorable mention for his Festive Christmas Train, Barbara Soward earning third place for her Nativity on a Flatcar, Fred Soward earning second place for his Feline Railfan, and Nat King earning first place and a Scale Reproductions store gift card for his Santa Comes to Main Street. Congrats to all of our entrants!

For January 2021, the Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest will start the New Year with the ever-popular Freight Cars category. Current point totals are brought forward from 2020 as follows: Joe Fields is in the 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.

For contest information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html> . To enter the January Contest, email 1 to 3 entry photos along with the Contest Entry Form as a PDF file to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com . Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions or comments, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com .

(continued in column 2-CONTEST)

**JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION**

The January meeting is Saturday January 16, 2:00 PM. Instead of a face-to-face meeting, the meeting will be virtual using the Zoom conferencing app. 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. Program: Steve Zapytowski, MMR®, MCR Contest Chairman. Steve explains how to take advantage of Form #902 to best present your work in a regional model contest.

CONTEST (from column 1)

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 January:

- January 2nd - First day to submit entries
- January 9th - Last day to submit entries
- January 13th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- January 14th & 15th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 15th
- January 16th - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd

JANUARY ZOOM GATHERING

On Saturday January 9, 2021 at 2:00 PM we will gather again for the Division 8 ZOOM Gathering. This month the presenters will be in the following order:

- Stan White - Improving scenes on Russ Weis' NYC layout
- Barry Christensen - Collecting information on your freight car models
- Bruce McKeown - Layout tour

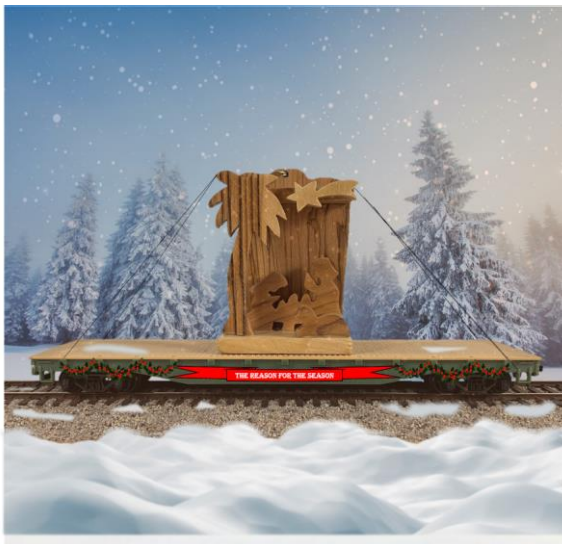
Each presentation will be approximately 20 minutes including a short Q & A by each presenter. Zoom meeting information will be sent out a few days before the gathering. If you need help connecting, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and someone from the Media Committee will help you. We look forward to seeing you on January 9!

DECEMBER SPECIAL "JUST FOR FUN" MODEL CONTEST



Right:
Second Place, Fred Soward, "Feline Railfan".

Division 8 held its first ever "Bull Session" today. We also announced the "Just for Fun" modeling contest winners! Congratulations to Nat King (First Place - Santa Comes to Main Street on the K&I Traveling Layout).



Above: Third Place, Barbara Soward, "Nativity Scene on a Flat Car:"

Right: Honorable Mention, Bob Frankrone, "Festive Christmas Train on a Shelf".



PIKE SHOWCASE

Right: A memory from yesteryear. A scene from Jim Harrington's Green Valley & Western HO Railroad.

Photo by Bob Dawson



WEATHERING A GONDOLA*By Bob Frankrone, photos by the author*

For some reason, the gondola is my favorite type of freight car. Perhaps it's because I have fond Christmastime memories of riding the nativity figures around our Christmas tree in a black, Lionel O-27 gondola. Or maybe it's because gondolas factor into so many of my open load models. Whatever the reason, gondolas hold a certain fascination for me.

Left: Bob weathered these two gondolas using the techniques described in this article.

Gondolas perform a lot of rugged service for the railroads, and because they do, their appearance is rather battered. So for me, it is important that I weather the gondolas on my layout. During the COVID pandemic, I have been experimenting with some weathering techniques that I have seen in various "how-to" videos. I have had some very good results, so I thought I would share my gondola weathering technique.

The first thing I do is spray the gondola, trucks and all, with Testors Dull Coat. This provides a flat finish that provides better adhesion for the weathering materials. Once dry, I then apply a thin wash of acrylic antique-white paint and water to the four sides of the gondola and let that thoroughly dry. I repeat that process several times to achieve a "faded paint" look. The number of times you repeat that process will determine the degree of fading.

I next apply tiny spots and patches of rust to the car body. To do this, I use a small piece of foam insulation and burnt sienna oil based paint (you can probably use acrylic paint). I lightly dip the piece of foam into my palette of paint, dab it almost dry on a paper towel, then dab it onto the car sides.

Right: Sometimes I like to apply graffiti decals



This will produce random spots of rust that vary in size and shape. For larger patches of rust, do not remove as much paint onto the paper towel. Once the paint has thoroughly dried, I tone it down by brushing on dark weathering chalk (black, brown, or rust colored).

The next step is to weather the interior of the gondola. I like to use a thick wash of acrylic black paint and water to first "paint" the interior of the gondola. Once the wash has dried, I use three different shades of rust colored chalk (dark, medium, and bright) to create a rusted interior. The chalks I use have an adhesion agent mixed in, so I simply apply them liberally with a dry brush. You can continue this process until you are satisfied with the result.

The last thing I do is paint the trucks and wheels. I mix together a small amount of orange and brown acrylic paint until I get the color that looks right to me (sort of a dark, slightly rusty color). I remove the wheels from the trucks and brush-paint them separately.

This technique works well for me, and should you try it, I wish you equal success. Happy weathering!



Left: Another gondola weathering project. Bob said It was fun experimenting with the different techniques. He said he was actually more pleased with the interior weathering of the gondola than the exterior weathering.

FIRE ON THE PENNSY'S OHIO RIVER BRIDGE

By Rick Tipton



The Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society would seem a long way from Louisville. However, there are a number of PRR retirees around Philly who once rotated through the Derby City, and some have written about it. Frank Tatnall is one, and my longtime email friend Bob Watson is another. Some years ago a first-person story by Bob appeared in a Philadelphia Chapter publication, reporting on a fire on the Ohio River Bridge:

Left: PRR Fairbanks-Morse switcher at 14th Street in Louisville at the approach to the Ohio River Bridge.

Photo: Otto Perry Collection, Denver Public Library.

It seems that the Fairbanks-Morse switchers in Louisville (model H10-44, PRR class FS10) sat idling over the Tuesday July 4, 1961 holiday. This allowed accumulation of large quantities of carbon in the exhaust manifolds, and when on Wednesday one started out a transfer run from Louisville to Jeffersonville Yard, the hard pull upgrade to the bridge launched red hot carbon out the stack.

When the Ohio River Bridge and draw were rebuilt in 1917, they were double-tracked; the World War II traffic bulge added a CTC installation in 1942. But not long before Bob's story, the east side track was removed, leaving behind the ties and a wooden walkway. The flying carbon embers landed on this wooden structure, and set it on fire, for about a quarter mile.

Right: Ohio River Bridge in 2009. By then the east track was long gone. Photo by Bob Dawson



This was apparently not the first fire on the bridge, because Pennsy kept a "fire car" at the enginehouse at the south end of the bridge. This was a nondescript, grey, woodsheathed boxcar with firefighting equipment, and similar grey PRR "work equipment" boxcars can be seen in the Derby Day picture at the top of page 19 of *Trackside Around Louisville (East) with Jack Fravert*. At any rate, the July 1961 fire was put out with no injuries, and the railroad went back to normal operations. The F-M switchers lasted in Louisville (and many other points on PRR lines west of Pittsburgh) almost to the 1968 PRR merger into Penn Central.



Left:

July 8, 1978. Charlie Keeling caught this Conrail Transfer crossing 12th Street in Louisville on its way to make a delivery to L&N's Maple Street Yard.

Photo by Charlie Keeling

SIGNA-PHILES

By Steve Lasher



I know some of you have been snoozing through my presentations of railroad signaling at our monthly “gatherings”. I freely admit to being interested in railroad signaling beyond what most rail-fans would be. However, in doing some of my own research for these presentations, I’ve found both a wealth of information and some groups that prove me a mere dilettante regarding signaling. Trust me, there are those out there for whom every hair on a signal electron’s head is numbered!

The good news for those of you who may actually be interested is that simple Google searches will yield tons of information on railroad signaling. Just entering terms like Automatic Block Signaling; Absolute Permissive Signaling; Interlockings; Centralized Traffic Control; ATC (Automatic Train Control); ATS (Automatic Train Stop); and continuous coded cab signaling will yield multiple sources mainly focused around Wikipedia. So, there’s all the info you could want at your fingertips available out there, if you are interested.

What’s even neater to me was finding a site called RailStream.net.

RailStream.net maintains real time video and audio monitoring at multiple sites around the country. They have three level of membership to choose from, each offering a higher level of enhancements. They are: Fireman, which is free and offers several sites the best of which are “Fostoria PTZ (looking west), and “Fostoria East”; Conductor, which would give you Berea (Cleveland) views;

and, Engineer which gives you every camera they have. The Conductor and Engineer packages come with modest monthly fees. Wow! Sit at my computer warm and cozy at home and watch trains! Modern life does offer some impressive perks! I would caution that live video streaming requires a good high-speed data connection. I blew through my Verizon monthly Wi-Fi allotment in a couple of days and now am looking at ways to get better, truly unlimited internet.



Fostoria, OH. Photo by Russ Weis

The reason I mention this is, in a previous Pie Card article, I wrote about myself and Russ’s visit to Fostoria and being able to see the signal system cycle through all its indications with closely following trains. Well, now with RailStream, you can sit at home and do this and, for free too. With the Fostoria PTZ view you can see the westward absolute signals at the CSX/NS diamonds and with the Fostoria East view you can see the eastward signals. The eastward signals show up much better after dark. In any case what makes Fostoria unique, compared to rail-fanning in say the 1970’s, is that there is plenty of traffic now, so that closely following trains are hardly uncommon at all. I’ve seen several instances happen already in the short time I’ve been watching.

So, take a look at RailStream. It’s free and, I have to say, neat. Pop a top, again, my friend. sit back and enjoy the show. I know I am.

**TRACKSIDE WITH RUSS WEIS**

Fostoria, Ohio.

This was taken during the visit by Russ Weis and Steve Lasher in September 2020.

See “Steve and Russ’s Excellent Adventure” in the October 2020 issue of the Pie Card.

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 and NOW quarterly Bull Session in lieu of the Gathering. Next Bull March 13, 2021.
- 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 in 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. Don't forget you can also dial in to any Zoom meeting from a landline or mobile phone - look for the dial up numbers in the Zoom Meeting Information.

Virtual meetings are here to stay. Get Connected! See your friends!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White, Division 8 Membership Chairman

As of November 30, 2020, Division 8's current membership stands at 127 active members. This includes ten renewals, one addition as a rerail, and five previous members that did not renew.

MEMBER WELFARE

By Rick Wehr, Member Welfare Committee Chairman

A gift card was sent to Kelly Norman, wife of Mark Norman, for her stay in the hospital due to Covid-19. She is home but the recovery may be slow.

Steve Lasher's mother passed away December 21 at age 98 in a nursing facility in Cleveland, Ohio. Steve said she was a Covid-19 victim. Our condolences to Steve and his family.

At this writing, Bill Edwards is scheduled for surgery on New Year's Eve.

DIVISION 8 MEMBER WELFARE PROGRAM POLICY:

Purpose: To bring comfort to Division 8 members or their spouses while recuperating from a stay in hospital and to provide consolation in the event of a death of member or member's spouse.

Administration: The program is administered by the Member Welfare Committee Chairman. It is the responsibility of the member, their family, or a fellow member to notify the chairman of the member welfare committee of a death or hospitalization.

Gifts and/or donations will be made as follows:

- **Death of member or member's spouse.** Memorial gift of \$ 50 to a charity specified by the member or member's family. If none is specified, the Division will choose a charity (such as Crusade for Children) and make a memorial donation in the name of the deceased member or their spouse.
- **Hospitalization other than out-patient of a member or member's spouse.** A \$25 gift certificate of their choice will be mailed to them.

2021 FALL TRAIN SHOW & SALE

By Ron Ellison, Train Show Committee Chairman

If you read Fred's Superintendent column, you know the Train Show & Sale is on for November 13, 2021. Well not 100% on. We're thinking about 80% possible. But that doesn't mean our enthusiasm is 80%. Our enthusiasm is more like 120%. Mark Hedge, our dealer boss is "champing at the bit" to move forward. And dealers are contacting him asking if the show is on. We have a lot ready to go from the Spring 2020 show - including most of the tables committed to and paid for. So put it on your calendar! And plan to come and help us. We're expecting pent-up demand from our visitors. We can't wait!

Division 8, MCR, NMRA

<http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/>**OFFICERS**

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Treasurer:	Mike Berry	502-245-1337

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Tom Guenther	502-363-3113
Russ Weis	502-245-7991
Ron Ellison	502-807-7683

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

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Librarian	Mike Berry	502-245-1337
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Member Welfare	Rick Wehr	502-500-6398
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Train Show and Sale	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
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Treasurer:	Bob McKay	814-591-5415

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.

Start the New Year Sanitized
 Order 10 Division 8 Sanitizers
 Pay \$2 each
 \$5 no touch shipping and handling charge
 Delivery to your door in 1 to 3 days
 ONLY for the month of JANUARY
 Online orders only
 Order ONLINE, PAY ONLINE

**THE PIE CARD NEEDS YOU—**

to send photos and articles. Do you have a modeling technique you would like to share with your fellow modelers? How about a photo taken on your layout (or a layout you have visited)?

Please send to the Editor, Bob Dawson at:
dawsobl@aol.com

THE COMPANY STORE IS ALWAYS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

24/7/365. Shop anytime here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.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.

Because we won't be meeting face to face for some time, 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. Help spread the word about model railroading! Start a conversation with your Company Store merch!