

The Pie Card

Volume 55, June 2021, Number 6

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

While I should be writing about the awesome time we all had at this year's Mid Central Region Convention, we all know that's an empty storyline.

Another storyline I could write about is how we will move forward as things start to open up after more than a year. That'll probably be the subject for next month, after we have time to review the responses from the recently completed Division 8 Questionnaire in detail. Thank you to all who responded to that questionnaire as it will help guide us in the next few months.

So how about a bit of a trip into fantasy? Everything we do as model railroaders is a bit of fantasy – no matter how detailed you try to make something, it's not going to be a 100% replica of the prototype, especially in HO or N scale.

We talked a bit about this in a groups.io email thread – fantasy paint schemes for model railroad equipment, especially locomotives. The idea is to have some fun with this. Don't take yourself (or another model railroader) too seriously. Bob Frankrone shared his HO scale model of a Southern Railway FP45. The Southern NEVER had those, but the paint scheme was plausible – it might've happened had the Southern purchased at least one FP45. And that's the core of the challenge – create something that might have been. For the Southern Pacific, how about an FP45 in a modified Daylight paint scheme? That sure never happened, but "what if?" Or what if the L&N was still around today, running 21st century locomotives? Would the paint scheme still be that drab grey with yellow lettering?

Here's the plan –

- Create a believable fantasy paint scheme for a present-day or fallen-flag prototype railroad and apply that paint scheme to a model railroad locomotive.
- Write a brief background story that describes your paint scheme and tells why it exists.
- Have fun with it.
- Be imaginative.
- YOU must do the work (no off-the-shelf foobies or work done by someone else).
- This is NOT part of the monthly Charlie Keeling Modeling Contest. No points toward that.
- No voting.

The deadline is the October 16, 2021 General meeting. It's Halloween and we all dress up for that, so why not? You DO dress up for Halloween, don't you?

So... I'll go ahead and admit that I already have the locomotive and decals for my fantasy locomotive entry in this event. I've had it all on-hand for more than a year. Now, I guess it's time for me to actually get to it and make it happen, eh?

MAY MEETING REPORT

The meeting was held on Saturday May 15, 2020 at 2 PM on Zoom. The attendance was 26. Superintendent Fred Soward announced one new member since the last meeting, Chris Ruckman. Mr. Ruckman wasn't in attendance.

In upcoming events Fred reported that the Division 8 Picnic will be Saturday July 31. (See page 7A this issue for details). The minutes for the February meeting are posted on the Division Web Site. Go to the members pages. You can also view the meeting the Division 8 YouTube Channel.

TIME TABLE

Jun 12, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Bull Session on Zoom (see page 2)
Jun 19, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom
Jun 26, NMRAX (virtual)
Jul 6-10, NMRA National Convention (virtual)
Jul 10, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom
Jul 24, NMRAX (virtual)
Jul 31, Sat Noon-3PM, Div 8 Picnic
Aug 14, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom
Aug 21, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom

CHARLIE KEELING VIRTUAL MODELING CONTEST

Barry Christensen, Chairman

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
January	Freight cars
February	Non-steam motive power
March	Structures
April	Passenger cars
May	Cabooses

As we soon come to the end of this contest year, the May Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest was appropriately for cabooses. There were six entries representing diverse styles of “crummies,” and (at the risk of sounding like a broken record) some of the best modeling efforts of the year. Honorable mentions go to Bob Frankrone for “SCL/L&N Transfer Caboose,” Rick Geerts for “UP EOT Caboose,” and Craig Hatter for “Penn Central N11 Transfer Caboose.”

Third place went to Steve Lasher for “Pennsylvania Railroad Cabin Car,” second place to Ed Brennan for “Sierra Railroad Drover’s Caboose,” and first place by a landslide to Kevin Jones for “On30 Logging Caboose.” Congrats to all of our entrants!

In a major development, the contenders are tightly packed on the home stretch! Bob Frankrone and Steve Lasher are now tied for the lead with 17 points each. Rick Geerts is immediately behind with 16 points. Kevin Jones follows closely with 15; Russ Weis directly next with 14; Craig Hatter with 12; Joe Fields with 11; Paul Downs with 8; Ed Brennan and Bruce DeMaeyer with 5 each; Ron Ellison and Al Goodman tied with 4; Stan White with 3; and Daryl Arend and Eric Waggoner tied with 1 each.

For June 2021, a Division 8 favorite of “Open Loads” is coming up as our final category in this Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest year. For contest information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html> . To enter the June 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
(continued to page 6)

**JUNE MEETING INFORMATION**

The June meeting is Saturday June 19, 2:00 PM. 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: James Knabb, “The Next Generation in Model Railroading.”

**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME BULL?**

Join us for the Official Division 8 Bull Session
Saturday June 12, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

No agenda - An open discussion about model and 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 working on it
- Ask for help with what you’re working on
- Share a new technique you discovered
- Spend time with like-minded people

Hosted by Mark Hedge

To maintain the security of the meeting, connection information will be sent directly to members about a week prior to the meeting and will also be available in the Groups.io Calendar.

This event is for NMRA members only.



Left: Kevin Jones took first place with this On30 Logging Caboose. The model represents a freelance logging caboose built on a disconnect truck. Several real logging railroads built similar cabooses, each unique to that logging railroad. The model is mostly scratch built. The disconnect frame, steps and body are 3D printed out of high impact poly styrene. The roof is corrugated aluminum by Stoney Creek Designs. The caboose doors and smoke jack are from Grandt Line, now San Juan Details. Nut, bolt, washer castings and brake wheel are from Tichy. Details: broom, shovel, axes, and canvas water bag are from Wiseman Model Services. Evergreen styrene angles are used on the corners. The entire caboose sits on top of a Bachmann On30 Log Car truck. All railings and grabs were hand bent from Tichy phosphorus bronze wire. The entire model is held together with a single screw through the center of the Bachmann truck.

Right: Ed Brennan took second place with his HO Sierra Railroad drover's caboose. The model is a Walther's Silver Streak wood and metal castings kit that Ed purchased (for under \$10.00!) in the late 1970's. You'll notice it's a truss rod car which accurately portrays the prototype on the Sierra Railroad. The basic kit was modified to include the following: styrene seats, hydrocal castings for cargo in the baggage area, styrene partition between the passenger and baggage compartments, clear acetate for the windows, Kadee couplers, and brass marker lights. Forty years later and it's still rolling along!



Right: Steve Lasher came in third with his HO PRR Cabin Car (Caboose). Steve modified an old Model Power caboose with new roof and details such as grabs, end railings, brake wheels, and added window glass.

He replaced the smoke jack, and added cupola supports, PRR style markers and trucks.

Finally, Steve re-decaled and weathered, and weighted the model to NMRA specs.



RUSS WENDERFER AWARD – 2021

By Fred Soward

Please join us in congratulating Division 8 member and trustee Ron Ellison as the 2021 Russ Wenderfer Award winner. Ron received this award during the May 21, 2021 Mid Central Region Membership Meeting.

The award is presented annually by the Mid Central Region and is sponsored by Cincinnati's Division 7. It is presented annually to an individual within the Mid Central Region for promotion of the hobby within the Mid Central Region. Each Division may nominate a candidate who, by their actions, involvement with Division activities, and overall extraordinary volunteer service, has promoted the hobby of model railroading and promotion of the National Model Railroad Association.

Most everyone in Division 8 knows of Ron's exploits as the chairman of our semi-annual Train Show and Sale and have seen him hosting and co-hosting Zoom meetings for the Division over the past year. Here are the other elements that were submitted in support of his nomination for this award:

- Division 8 trustee (2018 to present)
- Led the effort to develop the current Division 8 virtual meeting process
- Committee member for the 2017 Mid Central Region Convention in Louisville, KY
- Hosts the monthly Division 8 virtual Gathering & Bull Session
- Co-hosts the monthly Division 8 virtual Business/General Meeting & Clinic
- Train Show & Sale Committee Chair (2017 to present)
- Leads the Division 8 Media Committee
- Created and oversees the execution of the Division 8 marketing plan
- Created & manages the Division 8 YouTube channel
- Created & manages the Division 8 Groups.io email group
- Manages the Division 8 Facebook page
- Special projects include leading the revision of the Division 8 bylaws, leading the Annual Christmas Party planning and execution for two years, and leading the team developing the Division 8 Continuity Plan
- Revitalized and manages the Division 8 Company Store
- Developed a process and now manages the monthly Division 8 virtual contest elements
- Member of the Indy Junction 2022 Marketing Team and primary contributor to marketing efforts to date

There would've been even more lines added, but we ran out of room on the nominating form!

Thanks again, Ron, for everything you do for Division 8 and for promoting the model railroading hobby. It's good to know y'!

MEMBER WELFARE FUND REPORT

The primary purpose of the *Member Welfare Fund* is to provide Division 8 members and their immediate families with get well cards for illness and for sympathy cards and donations on behalf of Division 8 for the death of a relative as defined by the member welfare procedures.

Donations fiscal YTD: Barbara & Fred Soward-\$50; Don & Karen Fowler-\$100; Eric Waggoner-\$20; Mark Norman-\$10, \$20; Ron Ellison-\$25.

If you wish to donate, email the amount to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and we'll email you an invoice to pay online. Or call us at (502) 653-5371.

A reminder that June 30, 2021 is the end of the Division 8 fiscal year. Donations will be reset on July 1, 2021. Would you like to get next year started? Ask us to email you an invoice for your donation.

WOW! TOUCANS!

By Steve Lasher, photo by the author.

In 1962, midway in my 6th grade year, we moved from Cleveland, Ohio to Salem, Kentucky. I often say that I was a pioneer in culture shock. For a young railfan it was far more than a “shock”, it was forced re-settlement, a Diaspora of sorts. I went from a world of NYC, B&O, NKP, PRR, and, Erie-Lackawanna to – well, IC, and just for variety, more IC with the occasional smidge of L&N (ex-NC&StL, mostly).

Not that anything was too colorful east of the Mississippi and north of the Tennessee border anyway. NYC’s bold new look was the “cigar band” on black and B&O had given up the beautiful blue, gray, black and gold for the rather uninspired “sunburst” scheme on plain blue. And, Pennsy – well, who could tell under all the dirt, anyway. With the IC came black geeps, and sometimes the black with green diamond SW-7’s. I’m not complaining. Eventually, I grew very fond of green diamonds. That, however, took a while and, in the sixth grade, I hadn’t come to that yet.

A “Toucan” is an exotic tropical bird of vivid plumage with a colorful beak. At least, that’s how I would define “Toucan”. What does that have to do with trains, you might ask. To me, there were some railroads that had colorful paint scheme’s but that just lacked that certain “something” that would have made them truly “colorful”. The UP for instance, had the good sense to stick with a great color scheme (to this day, I might add) but, to me, was just “UP”. The Santa Fe, on the other hand, had the panache to go with a great paint scheme. I could cite other examples.



Still wearing CB&Q Chinese Red, a BN SD9 is at Warner, IL, a siding on the BN (ex-CB&Q) line between Galesburg and Savanah, Illinois

Which brings me to the Queen of the grangers - the CB&Q. Before the days of the malls, we frequently had to go to downtown Paducah (yes, dear, there is a downtown Paducah) on shopping trips since that’s where J C Penny’s and Runge Shoes amongst other needed shopping destinations were. Getting there took us past the old, two story, white, green and red, L&N (ex-NC&StL) yard office. On one of our first trips to downtown, what was parked there but FIVE, count ‘em, FIVE CB&Q SD9’s. Boy, were they colorful birds in a land dominated by black geeps. I still love the older black and gray with red and yellow striping used on the hood units, not to mention the big “Everywhere West” or “Route of the Zephyrs” slogans splashed on the hood sides. The Chinese red “Burlington” paint job was OK, too.

At the time I couldn’t imagine what CB&Q SD9’s were doing in Paducah, Kentucky. It was later I learned of their route to Paducah and the fact that they tied up at the L&N yard office after delivering coal to the Shawnee Steam Plant at West Paducah several times a week. The usual power was four or five SD9’s. Boy did they look huge compared to the average black ICRR geeps. To this day they still remain a, shall I say, “colorful” and happy memory.

TRACK SIDE (courtesy of Russ Weis).

Russ said he came across this photo that he is sure was given to his dad, Walter Weis. Russ said he knows his dad didn’t take it.

The back says: “L&N 411 BLW Evansville, IN, 3/18/40.”

Russ commented, “Too bad it blocked out that nice NYC loco behind it!!!! Probably a Hudson.”

For the record it is a L&N Baldwin L Class Mountain.



A RECENT SCENERY FIND

By Rick Geerts, photos by the author



AK Terrains Diorama products.

While surfing the internet during the COVID lockdown, I found this product that the military diorama guys use. They have a lot of different terrains. I found some on the internet by googling “AK Terrains”. After things opened back up, I saw that Scale Reproductions carries this product, and can probably order it if not in stock.

When it came to using it, I tried it two different ways. First, I used the Woodland Scenic Paving Tape, laid it down, and spread the concrete between the tape and smoothed it out and let it dry. I then pulled the tape up. The second way I found to be the easiest to do and also does not use very much product. Take foam board, cut it out in the shape of my road or



Road using AK Asphalt

parking lot. Then using a Bondo auto body filler spreader, I spread a thin coat on top. After it dries, it can be detailed and then glued to the layout. The concrete like the asphalt can have lines painted or drawn with a permanent marker, then cracks can be added. Something I want to try next is adding potholes while the products are still wet; I need to play around with this on the next road I make. Cost wise the bottles run from \$15.00 up to \$25 each. To me this product is a lot faster than mixing and spreading plaster, painting and then detailing it. Fellow modelers give this a try, you won't be disappointed

HOSPITALIZED

Jean Dawson, wife of Bob Dawson, was hospitalized in May for a knee replacement and is recovering at home.

NMRA Region President's Conference – Part One

By Fred Soward

As most of you know, I participated in a series of four NMRA meetings on behalf of the Mid Central Region in March and April 2021. Over the next few months, I'll be reporting about several items that I learned during those meetings. This month, I'm covering something that we talked about briefly during the May 2021 Division 8 General Meeting - it's all about the numbers.

Based on discussions during the NMRA meetings, I found out that NMRA members should be receiving an email with an attachment when they reach benchmark years of membership. I checked with our Division 8 Board of Directors, including myself, and no one had received one of these emails. I also checked with a few long-term Division 8 members – nothing. The only person who said they had received one was Kevin Jones – for 25 years. And that got me to wondering just how long some of our members have actually been involved with the NMRA.

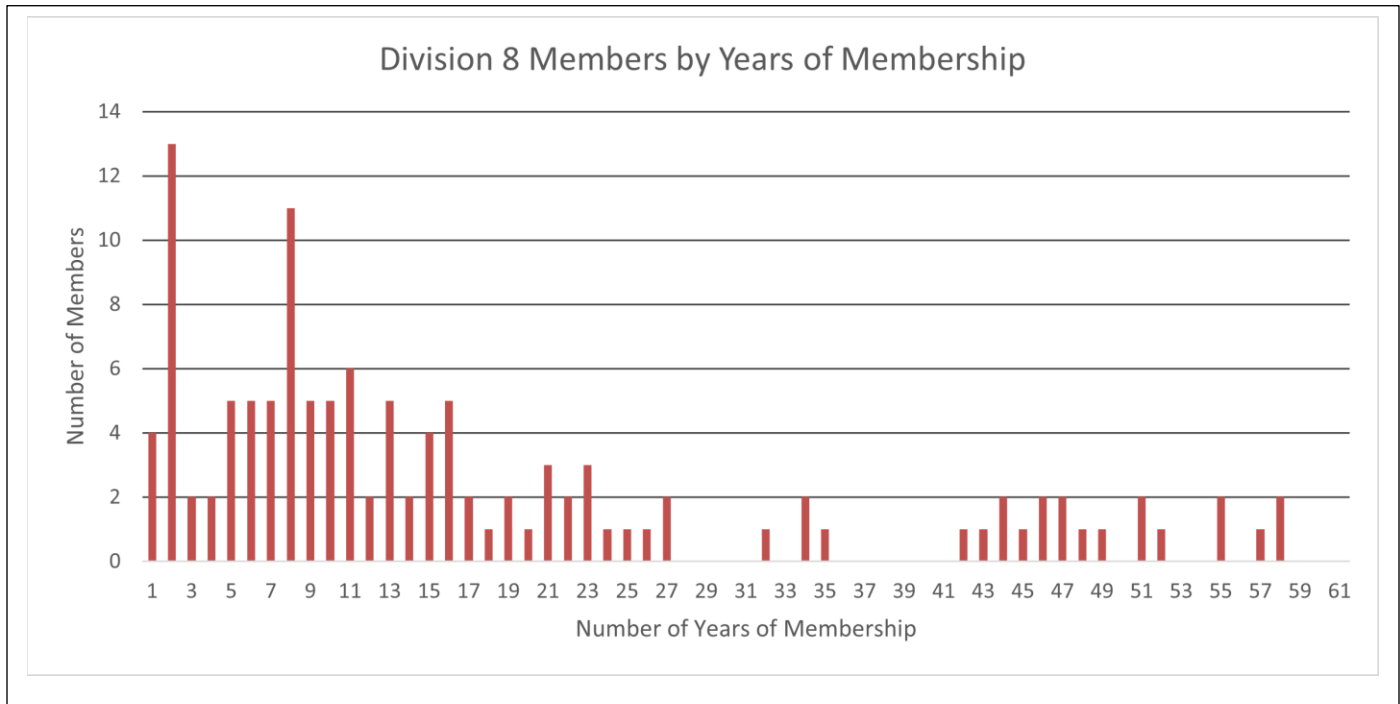
A disclaimer or two is in order here. The data is from the monthly membership spreadsheets the leadership team receives from NMRA HQ. It shows when someone has joined the NMRA and when they have re-railed after a period when their membership lapsed. It does not show the length of that lapse. So, if someone joined in 1990, left in 2000, and re-railed in 2010, we don't know there's a 10-year gap in there. Because of that, some of the data is suspect, but for our purposes, it's “close enough.”

Using the data from the May 2021 spreadsheet, Division 8 currently has 123 members. Of those, 13 are Life Members, and 4 are Family Members. The average (mean) length of NMRA membership is 16 years, 8 months. The average (median) length of NMRA membership is 10 years, 10 months which means there are as many Division 8 members who have been NMRA members longer than 10 years, 10 months as there are less than 10 years, 10 months. Which means that Barbara & I are just pretty average - exactly in the middle of Division 8.

We want to recognize people who have met significant membership enrollment gates. We don't want to take up the entire issue of the Pie Card, so we'll do it a little at a time. *(continued on page 7)*

Chris Ruckman is our newest member with just one month of membership. Welcome, Chris! Rick Tipton and John Barbee have been in the NMRA the longest at 57 years, 4 months. Bob Johnson and Frank Richterkessing, Jr are celebrating 50 years of NMRA membership this year. Mike Berry is celebrating 25 years of NMRA membership this year.

The graphic shows the number of people in Division 8 who have NMRA membership by year



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White, Membership Chairman

In May (the last report received from MCR) The Division has 123 Active Members. We have one new member, Chris Ruckman. Ten members renewed their membership: Daryl Arend, David Burris, Tim Coyle, Darcy Elliott, Tom Guenther, John Helton, Lisa Helton, Carl Hulsewede, Steve Oswald, and Brenda Stewart.

KEEP CONNECTED

From the Division 8 Media Committee

These are the ways for Division 8 members to stay in touch and stay 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 June 12, 2021
- Division 8 Facebook
- Division 8 Webpage

Ever wonder what you're missing by not joining Groups.io? Why not give it a try? It's the best way to learn what it's all about. We'll send you an invite and you can ride it down the track a ways. You can get off at any stop by unsubscribing.

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.

May 18-22, 2022

Four Full Days
Three Regions
Two Day Train Show
One Convention
and the RPM Conference

facebook.com/IndyJunction2022



MWR NCR MCR
RPM Conference

www.IndyJunction2022.org



DIVISION 8 PICNIC

SATURDAY JULY 31, 2021

DEPOT MUSEUM
206 South College Avenue
Salem, IN 47167-1304

(map link here [↓](#))

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vZs2oTTxnVcT817h8>

(webpage link here [↓](#))

[The Depot Railroad Museum | John Hay Center](#)

COME JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL DIVISION 8 PICNIC
WE WILL GATHER BETWEEN 11:00 and 11:30 and DINE AT 12:00
(WE WILL BE INSIDE IN AIR CONDITIONING)
ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THE MODEL CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED
There will be plenty of time to visit the train layout
and check out new additions to the museum collections

BUFFET LUNCH \$5.00 / PERSON, PAYABLE AT THE PICNIC

Contact Mike Berry to reserve a place at the picnic table
mikeberry063@gmail.com or (502) 640-4428

SEE YOU THERE !

Masks will be required at the picnic except when actually eating the meal. These restrictions may be further lifted based on guidance from government agencies. Everyone attending is expected to have been fully vaccinated.

OFFICERS

Superintendent:	Fred Soward	502-499-0770
Asst. Supt:	Eric Waggoner	502-244-6628
Clerk:	Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Treasurer:	Mike Berry	502-245-1337

TRUSTEES

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

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Achievement Program	Mark Norman	502-797-2062
Contests	Barry Christensen	270-272-6069
Librarian	Mike Berry	502-245-1337
Membership	Stan White	502-558-2466
Member Welfare	Rick Wehr	502-500-6398
Media	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
Meetings & Program	Russ Weis	502-245-7991
Pie Card	Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Train Show and Sale	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
Webmaster	Tom Guenther	502-363-3113

MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS

President:	Dave Neff	440-269-1229
Vice-president:	Jerry Doyle	304-638-2826
Secretary:	Fred Soward	502-499-0770
Treasurer:	John Shields	513-561-8691

If you are not sure who to contact, call (502) 653-5371 and tell us your needs. We'll get back to you. To contact Division 8 or any board member or committee director by email use - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

THE PIE CARD

Division Eight, MCR, NMRA
Box 99041
Louisville, KY 40269-0041
502-653-5371

Editor: Bob Dawson
Asst. Editor: Rick Tipton
Publisher EPie Card: Ron Ellison

The Pie Card is published twelve times a year by Division 8 of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid Central Region.

Please address all correspondence to Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Dr., Louisville, KY 40214 or email: dawsobl@aol.com.

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.

TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 31ST YEAR



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021 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

Dealer Tables available - \$30 per table
For information or to reserve dealer tables contact:
Mark Hedge - (812) 288-8037 Email: div8trainshow@gmail.com

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

IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Company Store is ALWAYS open for business 24/7/365. Shop anytime here at the NEWLY REMODELED STORE FRONT - <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. We will ship your order via USPS and invoice you for postage at the least expensive rate along with your merch.

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 Division 8 Company Store merch!