

The Pie Card

Volume 55, March 2021, Number 3

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Hard to believe it has been a full year since we started doing just about everything virtually, isn't it? With all the challenges this past year, it's been great to see so many Division 8 members step up their participation game. No matter how small you think your contribution

has been, it's been appreciated and felt across the group.

Almost on a dime, we changed course and jumped into virtual meetings when face-to-face meetings became impossible for us. Most of us quickly learned how to Zoom, how to share our screens, and most importantly during meetings, how to mute our microphones.

Way back in January 2020, well before we knew how serious COVID-19 would be for us, the BoD decided to try out Groups.io email groups to encourage communication across Division 8. More than half of our Division 8 members quickly joined. It's been a great way for us to keep up with each other and to chat about model and prototype railroading. It would be great to have all Division 8 members enrolled in groups.io. Please consider making the leap if you're not already with us in there. Trust me – the water's fine and no one is going to dunk you if you're a latecomer to that party.

We made virtual and social distancing work for us. Virtual Gatherings allowed us to share what we've all been working on while in isolation. It was a group effort to figure out how to make virtual contests happen. We created "Celebration Station" where we handed out contest and Achievement Program awards in the 600 Building parking lot and we'll do it again later this month. We went to the recipient's home to present last year's Silver Spike award.

Parking lot judging? We're not an automobile club! But that's exactly what we did to allow people to continue moving through the Achievement Program. I just wish someone would've taken a couple photos of structures being judged in the bed of a pickup truck.

All the regular month-to-month stuff we were doing pre-pandemic happened as well. Making all these things happen efficiently and appearing to be nearly effortless requires a lot of time to work the tasks behind the scenes by many dedicated Division 8 members. Making it all happen during the past twelve months has been nothing short of remarkable.

Thank you, everyone, for being flexible. For being patient with others and with the technology challenges. No matter your level of involvement, thank you for being a part of the Division and for putting forth your efforts to promote the hobby. Be sure to thank yourself and to thank all who do so much for the Division. It's not over yet of course. We're going to keep doing what we're doing and we're going to make it through all this.

Addendum. I drafted this month's Superintendent's column in early December 2020, more than two months before I submitted it to Bob Dawson for this issue of The Pie Card. When we lost Joe Fields to COVID-19 last month, I considered revising the message. Thinking of Joe's zeal for life and for his desire to get us to pursue all that we can, I decided to leave it as it is. As a group, we are a strong organization. We have the resilience and aptitude to adapt and overcome most anything that comes our way. Stay involved, continue working on your model railroad projects, thank those around you whether they are near or far. Be safe.

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

By Bob Dawson, Division 8 Clerk

The meeting was held on February 20, 2021 virtually on the Zoom video conferencing platform. Attendance was 28.

Superintendent Fred Soward reported that Mark Norman has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Division 8 Achievement Program. Mark is replacing Joe Fields, who passed away earlier this month (see Page 6). Fred announced that Joe had completed the requirements to become a Master Model Railroader before his passing. Joe has been awarded MMR® #674.

(continued on page 2)

TIME TABLE

Mar 13, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Bull Session on Zoom

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

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

Apr 10, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

Apr 17, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom

May 8, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

May 15, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom

Jun 12, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

Jun 19, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom

Jul 10, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

CHARLIE KEELING VIRTUAL MODEL CONTEST*Barry Christensen Contest Chairman*

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
January	Freight cars
February	Non-steam motive power

The February Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest was for non-steam motive power. This expanded category broadens the scope and acknowledges that contestants frequently enter power other than the traditional diesel-electric locomotives. There were seven entries, with honorable mentions for Ed Brennan's Stewart L&N Alco C628, Bob Frankrone's L&N F7 consist, Rick Geerts' GM switcher, and Stan White's patched out NS GP9.

Craig Hatter came in third with his PC GP30 2189 with the pink P, Kevin Jones second with his On30 motor car #5, and Steve Lasher first with his Baldwin DR4-4-15 Baby Face. Congrats to all of our entrants!

Before sharing the updated contest results, I wanted to honor our beloved Division 8 fellow modeler and Achievement Program director Joe Fields, who was an active participant in the Charlie Keeling Model Contest with many awards over the years. At the time of his death, Joe had 11 points in the current contest year and, as usual, was a major contender.

The updated contest results are as follows: Bob Frankrone continues in the lead with 13 points, Joe Fields, Rick Geerts and Russ Weis following with 11 each, and Kevin Jones next with 10 points. Craig Hatter and Steve Lasher are tied with 9 points each. Bruce DeMaeyer and Ron Ellison have 4 each, Stan White has 2, and Daryl Arend, Ed Brennan and Eric Waggoner have 1 each.

For March 2021, we will have the category of "Structures" in the Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest. For contest information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html> . To enter the March 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 .

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 Mark Norman and he will arrange to have AP judges assist. (continued in column 2)

**MARCH MEETING INFORMATION**

The March meeting is Saturday March 20, 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: The presentation will be by Spring Creek Model Trains in Desher, NE - A virtual tour of the largest model train store between Denver and Chicago.

DIVISION 8 BULL SESSION

Instead of a March Gathering, a Division 8 "Bull Session" will be held on Zoom, Saturday, March 13 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 also be available in the [Groups.io](https://groups.io) Calendar. This event is for NMRA members only.

CONTEST (from column 1)

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

- March 6th - First day to submit entries
- March 13th - Last day to submit entries
- March 17th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- March 18th & 19th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 19th
- March 20th - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

MEETING REPORT

(continued from page 1)

Joe's wife, Sue, attended the meeting and thanked everyone who helped make Joe's MMR® happen. She also thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers for her and the family.

Fred Soward presented the Back-to-Basics segment, "Couplers-Keeping It All Together". Sam Swanson, Division 7, presented the Clinic, "Finishing Models".

The minutes for the February meeting are posted on the Division Web Site. Go to the members pages. You can also view the meeting along with Sam Swanson's clinic on the Division 8 YouTube Channel.



Congratulations to our February 2021 Modeling Contest winners.

Left:

Steve Lasher won first with his HO Baldwin DR4-4-15 "Baby Face" diesel units.

Right:

Second place was taken by Kevin Jones with his On30 motor car #5

Construction photos of this model were published in the February Pie Card.



Left:

Craig Hatter came in third with his PC GP30 2189 with the pink P.

(see more contest photos on page 7)





Left:

Action on Chris Broughton's N-Scale Pennsylvania RR.

A single track serving two industries creates its own challenges. Of course, the pickup is the furthest car back! The rest are setouts and a re-spot. With one pickup, two setouts, and a hold, there's enough work here to keep the crew busy right up until lunchtime.

Photo and caption by Chris Broughton

Right:

Northbound Train 802 (the Doodlebug) on Rob Cooper's HO L&N RR.

Beginning at Knoxville (staging) with stops at:

- Lot
- Corbin
- South Winchester
- North Winchester
- Cinci/Lou Jct.

Terminating at Louisville (staging).

Photo by Bob Dawson



TRACKSIDE WITH ED BRENNAN

It is February 1992 at the service facility at Osborne Yard in Louisville. As you can see, the colors are changing, but L&N 1259 has managed to escape the paint shop and the Family Lines paint scheme. That won't last much longer.

Photo and caption by Ed Brennan

Boy, am I Tired of This!*By Steve Lasher*

Broom work is never done after a good snow on the PAL!

It's February 16th, 2021 and a cool 10 degrees outside (even colder with the wind chill) as two Paducah and Louisville Railway employees work on clearing snow and ice from the switches at West Yard in Madisonville, Kentucky.

Jim Pearson Photography-with permission.

underwear on the bottom, jeans and flannel shirt next with a fleece lined leather vest on top. All this was under a heavy denim, insulated "chore coat". A good, wool stocking cap went on top covered with a "hard hat liner". Hardhat liners had a canvas shell with insulated material on the inside and a wide collar. The collar could be tucked under your coat and it was great for keeping the wind and cold air from going down your neck.

A word about footwear. The best cold weather footwear I found were some "snowmobile boots" I found at Kmart (remember them?). They were a waterproof rubber and nylon outer shell with a separate, heavy, ½" thick felt liner. If your feet got cold in these you'd been out far too long anyway and it was time to come inside and thaw out!

For your hands, good insulated gloves were a necessity. Enginemen needed gloves with fingers to have some dexterity. On the other hand (pardon the pun), trainmen valued warmth over dexterity since not so much about their jobs required anything intricate. The hand-wear of choice for them was a good pair of leather mittens with wool liners. Mittens are far better for cold weather since your fingers can help keep each other warm.

In the last Division 8 Gathering, Fred Soward mentioned "snow brooms" which were usually kept behind a grab iron on the front of the locomotive. At least the ones that the Rock Island furnished were about the most useless items for trying to deal with snow and ice ever invented. They had short, heavy bristles on the broom end while the other end had a 6-inch piece of steel strip stock approximately 1 inch wide inserted into a slot cut in the other end of the broom handle to, theoretically, chip ice.

In order for you to have any chance with this instrument, the snow had to be just the right consistency. It seems like that seldom happened so some clearing work with your hands was necessary. Most of the time using it was like an adventure in shoveling BB's uphill. And the end with the steel strip that was supposed to be your ice chisel? Well, you could forget that. If you tried to actually use it on ice it usually just bent over and became totally useless. The Rock Island thought so much of these brooms that they placed a 3-inch piece of pipe in the vicinity of the important hand throw switches that was supposed to have a switch broom for instant use. Of course, they generally didn't appear until after the first major snowstorm happened.

So, friends, much more could be said about wintertime railroading. If it's interesting let Bob, Fred, myself, or Ron know. Another article on which engines had the best and/or worst cab heaters and sidewall heater cooking cuisine might be interesting. Just let us know. Meanwhile, stay warm!

I'm writing this on February 16th since coming inside to warm up after shoveling my wife's vehicle out of the snow so she could go to work. The temperature outside was 14 degrees with a wind chill down to about zero. The day before, Jude Redfield on WDRB TV was describing this storm as a once in a generation event. Fortunately, it didn't materialize as expected so we only got 4 -5 inches here in Jeffersonville, IN. Nevertheless, I'm going on record as having had my fill of "once in a generation" winter storms.

Several of these events happened while I was working for the Rock Island in Illinois and Iowa with a few on the Cotton Belt in Texas so, friends, I feel qualified to share some of the joys of trying to railroad in the wintertime.

"It's miserable" is the least I can say. Just suiting up to work outside in severe cold was no small undertaking. Simply because I was working as a fireman or engineer and was theoretically inside didn't mean I wouldn't be outside so I had to dress accordingly. I used to wear insulated



Joe Fields passed away February 5, 2021. He was 72 years old. Joe was a life member of NMRA, and had served as Superintendent of Division 8 at one time. For the past ten years, Joe was chairman of the Division 8 Achievement Program. Joe was always there to prod and encourage members to do their best, and strive for their NMRA Master Model Railroader certification. Joe led by example, working on the requirements for his own MMR certification.

The Division was notified on the day of its February meeting that Joe had met all of the requirements to become a Master Model Railroader prior to his passing. It was announced at the meeting that Joe earned Master Model Railroader #674. Joe earned certificates in: Scenery, Locomotives, Civil Engineer, Cars, Dispatcher, Structures, and Association Volunteer. He also was awarded the Golden Spike. In 2012 Joe received Division 8's Silver Spike Award in recognition of his exemplary service to Division 8.

Joe is survived by his wife Sue, daughter Tammy M. Boutiette (Todd), son Jonathan Fields (Sarah), mother Laura E. Fields, and three grandchildren.

MAINTENANCE TIES FUND IS NOW THE MEMBER WELFARE FUND

The board recently discussed the Maintenance Ties fund. It was decided it had lost some of its steam and perhaps needed a refresh. So, we did that! Going forward, the program will be known as the *Member Welfare Fund*.

The primary purpose of the 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.

Instead of member donations being recorded by the calendar year, they will now be recorded by our fiscal year which is from July 1st to June 30th. Recognition of member donations will be listed in *The Pie Card* each month.

If you wish to make a donation to the *Member Welfare Fund*, call us at (502) 653-5371 or email us the dollar amount of the donation you wish to make to: division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com. We will email you an invoice for your donation amount. You can then pay with your credit card online. If you wish to make other payment arrangements, let us know. We will get back to you with payment instructions.

We encourage you to make a donation to the new fund. We promise to make it easy for you and to make your donation known.

MARCH 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; Eric Waggoner-\$20; Mark Norman-\$10; 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.

MEMBER WELFARE

Rick Wehr and Mike Berry

Rick reported that a sympathy card had been sent to Joe Fields' family. Joe passed away on February 5th. Mike Berry reported that a \$50 donation was made to Louisville Downs Syndrome in memory of Joe Fields.

MEMBERSHIP

Stan White, Membership Chairman

As of January 31, 2021, we currently have 124 active members. We had 15 renewals in January with one new (rerailed). Welcome back Mike Gootee! And finally, we have six members up for renewal in February.

You can help keep the hobby strong and growing by participating and being engaged in all the activities offered by Division 8 and the NMRA.

MORE FROM THE FEBRUARY CONTEST-HONORABLE MENTION

Photos submitted by the modelers



Above: Bob Frankrone's HO F7 Consist.
Below: Ed Brennan's HO L&N Alco C628



Above: Stan Whites' "patched out" HO NS GP9.
Below: Rick Geert's HO Baldwin Switcher in GM colors.



TRAIN SHOWS

Compiled by Mark Hedge

BOWLING GREEN KY: Bowling Green Model Train Show and sale Saturday March 6. The show will be at the L&N Depot, Historic Rail Park, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

EVANSVILLE, IN: Evansville Model Train Sale Saturday, April 17 at the National Guard Armory, 3300 E Division Street, Evansville, Indiana, 47711.

FRANKLIN, IN: Franklin Train Show, Johnson County Fairgrounds. May 15 & 16.

WEST CHESTER, OH: Division 7 Spring Flea Market. Postponed until June, date to be announced.

NEW HAVEN KY: Kentucky Railway Museum, August 7, 9:00 AM, St. Catherine's Gym.

LOUISVILLE, KY: Division 8 Train Show and Sale November 13; Holy Family Parish Safin Center, 3938 Poplar Level Rd.

If you are interested in any of these Shows, check their websites for more information.

Division 8, MCR, NMRA<http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/>**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:	Bob Weinheimer	304-343-1428
Vice-president:	Dave Neff	440-269-1229
Secretary:	Jerry Doyle	304-638-2826
Treasurer:	Bob McKay	814-591-5415

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 EPieCard-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.

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 to 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!

DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Available:
Division 8 Polo Shirts,
Long Sleeve Denim
Shirts, Fleece Jackets,
and Baseball Caps
For selections, prices,
and order form, go to:
div8-mcr-nmra.org and
click on "Company
Store".

