

The Pie Card

Volume 55, May 2021, Number 5

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Are your bags all packed? Are you ready to go? If so, you're a little early for the next Mid Central Region Convention. Usually, this month would bring us a 3-day convention where we'd be able to attend clinics, participate in modeling contests, visit layouts, and visit with other model railroaders from the region. Not happening this year. But next year, just a two-hour drive north on I-65. . .

Next year is Indy Junction 2022, scheduled for May 18-22, 2022, in Indianapolis. If you're thinking that's not part of the Mid Central Region, you are absolutely correct. This will be a three-region event, with the Midwest Region, the North Central Region, and our own Mid Central Region. That means three times the number of clinicians to draw from for some great clinics. Ron Ellison and I are working publicity. Bruce DeMaeyer, assisted by Bob Frankrone and Barbara Soward, is in charge of registration. The rest is covered by people from all three regions.

The convention will be in the Indianapolis Marriott East. This location is away from downtown with reasonable room rates, easy access from I-465/I-70, and FREE parking. The convention will be a day longer than usual to get in all the content we expect to have available. With the lower room rate, it's going to be a LOT less expensive for you to attend this convention than an entire week in a downtown venue, it will be at a much better time to be out and about than in the middle of the summer, and it's just a two-hour drive from L'ville.

Layout tours will be during the day – and they're ALL self-driving so you can spend as much time as YOU want at each stop. We are planning a two-day train show for Saturday and Sunday. But it won't be a flea market/buy/trade/sell type of event. You also will not see big name manufacturers who will only bring displays to the show. Instead, we're looking at having smaller but well-known manufacturers who will sell direct to you as an attendee.

We're planning all the rest of the usual things – contests, non-rail, prototype tours, and other activities. We are working on a couple other items, but because they're not yet confirmed, we are not quite ready to share those with you.

One other thing – the RPM Conference (Railroad Prototype Modelers) group has agreed to join us in this venture. So, not only will you have the things you'd expect at this convention, you'll also be able to attend clinics by some of the best modelers you'll see anywhere. They're also bringing display models for you to marvel at. All at no additional cost to you as an attendee.

Four Full Days, Three Regions, Two-Day Train Show, One Convention. What a deal!

If you're going to go to just one convention next year, THIS is the one! As always, stay tuned for more info.
<https://www.indyjunction2022.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/indyjunction2022>



Mike and Jeff Zuker.

TIME TABLE

May 8, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom
May 15, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom
Jun 12, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Bull Session on Zoom
Jun 19, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom
Jul 10, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom
Jul 31, Sat Noon-3PM, Div 8 Picnic
Aug 14, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

APRIL MEETING REPORT (The April meeting minutes are posted on the Division 8 Website) The April Division 8 meeting was held via Zoom on April 17 at 2 PM. Fred Soward presented a Back-to-Basics segment discussing the evolution of HO couplers from the 1940's to today. He also reviewed the brands of couplers available today and their differences. The program was a virtual tour of Spring Creek Model Trains store in Desher, NE by Mike and Jeff Zuker. The presentation was cut short due to technical difficulties but will be continued at a later date.

CHARLIE KEELING VIRTUAL MODELING CONTEST*Barry Christensen, Chairman*

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
March	Structures
April	Passenger cars

The April Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest was for passenger cars. There were five entries, with honorable mentions going to Rick Geerts for "Tribute Train" and Craig Hatter for "Penn Central Business Car Jeffersonville."

Third place went to Bob Frankrone for "Catskill Mountain Scenic Railroad Car," second place to Steve Lasher for "New York Central Observation Car" and first place to Paul Downs for "L&N Kentucky Club." Congrats to all of our entrants!

Bob Frankrone has now vaulted into the lead with 16 points. Rick Geerts and Steve Lasher are immediately behind with 15 points each. Russ Weis follows with 14; Joe Fields, Craig Hatter, and Kevin Jones with 11 each; Paul Downs with 8; Bruce DeMaeyer with 5; Ron Ellison and Al Goodman tied with 4; Stan White with 3; Ed Brennan with 2; and Daryl Arend and Eric Waggoner tied with 1 each.

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

To enter, email 1 to 3 entry photos (JPG file format) 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.

The judging is strictly people's choice.
(continued to column 2)

**MAY MEETING INFORMATION**

The May meeting is Saturday May 15, 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: Philip Gliebe, Division 7, "Kitbashing & Building Narrow Gauge Locomotives".

MAY ZOOM GATHERING

On Saturday May 8, 2021 at 2:00 PM we will gather again for the Division 8 Zoom Gathering.

Steve Lasher, Mike Berry, and Bob Frankrone will discuss "Open Loads" in a "tag team" presentation. Each segment 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.

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

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.

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

- May 1st - First day to submit entries
- May 8th - Last day to submit entries
- May 12th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- May 13th & 14th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 14th
- May 15th - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd

**Central Indiana Division Train Show**

Saturday and Sunday May 15th & 16th.
Johnson County Fairgrounds, Franklin, IN.
10 AM to 3 PM Admission \$3/person-
\$5/family



Above. Paul Downs took first place with his N Scale L&N "Kentucky Club". A model of a heavy weight passenger car that the L&N Railroad updated to match their newer streamlined and smooth side cars. The L&N removed only the window section for this car and added new, large windows of the same size and shape as the new streamliners. Paul took an existing coach, removed the sides, and then scratchbuilt new sides, cutting out each window. Because this car kept its sides below the belt rail, He added rivet details to depict its heavyweight heritage. He also added undercarriage and roof details, including a roof antenna.

The model was painted, decaled, and weathered. The decals (except for the stripes) were designed by Paul and printed by the old Rail Graphics company.

Right. Steve Lasher took second with this HO New York Central Observation Car. Steve began with a Walthers heavyweight observation car. He added interior lighting and Marker Lights. A safety bar down the aisle side, window shades, and figures were added, and the car was lightly weathered. The model belongs to Russ Weis.



Left. Bob Frankrone captured third place with his HO Catskill Mountain Scenic Railroad car.

The Catskill Mountain RR uses converted flat cars to transport passengers on a scenic ride through the Catskill Mountains. Bob modeled this passenger car to resemble the one he rode on in the summer of 2013. The sides and benches are scratch-built using scale lumber. The door to the seating area lifts in and out and is anchored in the car's stake pocket. Bob printed the signs on his computer. (more contest photos on page 6)



N-SCALE CHOPPED-NOSE RS3M

By Chris Broughton MMR®

9951 was PC / Conrail's lone chop-nosed RS3m. The cab windows, headlight/number board assembly, and EMD exhaust stacks are MP15 parts. The 36" EMD fans are resin, cast from a mold made using fans from a GP9. The remaining details are made from styrene, photo-etched, and wire parts. Penn Central rebuilt their aging fleet of Alco RS3's using EMD prime movers and 36" fans salvaged from scrapped E-units. The program was continued by Conrail post-merger. Aficionados will recognize the EMD exhaust stacks and EMD 36" fans on the model.

TRACKSIDE WITH BILL LYNCH

Right: March 17, 2021 finds Bill at Speed, IN. CSX Train# Q688-17, a north bound Autorack/Manifest, flagging the crossing at the cement plant. Track workers had the signals disabled at the time.



Left: Earlier, on February 27th, Bill caught this west bound NS Steel train. Bill took this photo from a new road overpass between Georgetown and Crandall, IN.



Four Full Days

Three Regions

Two Day Train Show

One Convention

May 18-22, 2022

www.IndyJunction2022.org

INDY JUNCTION-Three Regions-One Convention

Presented by:

Midwest, North Central, and Mid Central Regions, NMRA.

Plus, Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) Conference.

CLINICS, OPS SESSIONS, LAYOUT TOURS, PROTOTYPE TOURS

DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS, SIMILAR STORIES

By Russ Weis, photo from the author's collection



Russ, in the cockpit. Photo from Russ Weis

Labor Act? That's right, airline unions follow the rules of the 1926 federal railway laws which mostly deal with when a union can go on strike. You say I can't be serious - but I am. Google it for more information.

Rest, or lack of it, is another similarity. When I started with UPS I was, of course, at the bottom of the pilot seniority list and on a 24 hour reserve call out. With railroad freight crews both now and then, they, too, are on a 24 hour call out. Steve and I both said we'd call the schedulers and ask what number we were on the list and would start guessing should we get in a nap now and chance being awake all night waiting for that call. Or go to bed like "normal" people and hope the call didn't come through an hour after we turn off the light. We both said on a number of occasions we guessed wrong and boy, was it a long night!

Engineers and pilots have to walk around their respective machinery to see if the maintenance guys didn't miss anything. It was always a pleasure with our respective "walk-around" when it was pouring down rain or 10 below and snowing like heck.

Both Stan and I were made aware of our payload so we knew if our aircraft would get off the ground, and Steve his tonnage so he knew how to handle his mile long train.

Steve tells the story on a cold winter's night how snow was blowing in the cab through the door seal and how they would fix that problem with two-inch masking tape. He goes on to say the masking tape worked the best as duct tape was too sticky and hard to get off at the end of the trip. Steve says the masking tape was a standard carry item with all the seasoned engineers.

For me it wasn't snow, but rain. My DC-8, like all of them, had a side window that opened. Over the many years of service that window didn't seal tightly on the ground so when a heavy rain came water would trickle down right into our flight kit with all our charts and books. Always on those nights it wasn't masking tape we were looking for, but made sure we had plenty of paper towels on board to stuff around the window.

Then there were some of my first officers, or Steve's firemen, and let's just say they had a very colorful personality. So colorful that our editor couldn't print anything about them! Maybe buy us a beer and we'll tell you all the unprintable stories!

So, there you go, two guys, one going 600 MPH and the other 60, but similar stories.

Through many of my recent writings you may guess that Steve Lasher is a regular visitor to our house as is Stan White.

Once a week we get together for lunch, then work on my layout. During lunch we cover a number of subjects and, no surprise, railroading of some sort comes up. Often Stan or I will ask Steve a "what would happen if" question, but would you believe that Mr. railroad engineer Steve Lasher will ask Stan or me an aviation question?

So, over our many lunches we all came to learn there were many similarities in the aviation and railroading industries.

For starters, do you know that the pilot unions at air carriers such as United, Delta, UPS, and Fed Ex all fall under the National **Railway**



Steve in the cab.

Photo by Russ Weis

MODEL CONTEST, HONORABLE MENTION ENTRIES



Left and Above: Rick Geerts' HO Armed Forces Tribute Car based on George H. Bush's funeral car. The car is from Walthers with a wooden floor added. An Atlas coffin was installed, draped with a real cloth flag that Rick Printed with his laser printer. The figures are hand painted Shapeways figures based on real life veterans, Rick's dad (WWII) and father-in-law (Korean War).



Above and Right. Craig Hatter's HO Penn Central business car "Jeffersonville". It began life as a KATO model decorated as a NYC car. He painted out the lettering, painted the lettering board, decaled it for Penn Central, added an end medallion, and lightly weathered the car.

Keep Connected

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

TO PICNIC OR NOT TO PICNIC?

That was the question the Board of Directors was tasked with for our April BoD. As one of our members stated in a short questionnaire we sent out to all members - It can't be a picnic if there is no food!

So, it is decided. The 2021 Division 8 Summer Picnic is a GO. Saturday July 31, 2021 at the Depot Railroad Museum in Salem, Indiana - <https://goo.gl/maps/SdwwkvhoXBCTwvN67>. And we will picnic with food. So, mark your calendar with that date. More details on how to reserve a place at the picnic table, how much it will cost (we promise it will be very reasonable), and other details will appear in the June Pie Card. We will gather at High Noon - but you can come a little earlier or stay a little after and have a look around the museum. You do need a mask and COVID - 19 vaccination to attend.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White, Membership Chairman

For the month ending March 31, 2021, we have the following membership up-date:

123 Active Members (Down two from February)

We welcome one new member, Myron Coldiron.

10 Renewals: Paul Downs, Rich Esarey, Louis Franconia, Rick Geerts, Robert Johnson, Carl Krull, Rebecca Krull, Robert Kuchler, Cathy Kuchler, and Albert Oswald.

Five emails reminders were sent to those who had memberships expire March 31, 2021.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman

A favorite column of mine in the NMRA Magazine is written by the self-described tool junkie. It seems we can never have too many tools. There are a few tools you likely have in hand that will greatly aid you in your AP journey and improve your skills – pen, paper, and mobile phone. While building your model, scenery, wiring, etc. writing a few notes helps keep a record of how you did it, what materials were used, etc. A snapshot taken with your mobile phone provides further clarity. You now have the basis for the required SOQ, Statement of Qualification. Tidy it up and write it on the form or use your favorite word processor. It's really that simple. Keep it focused – what, why, how, etc. Even now, I keep a record of what I build. It helps when going back to touch up paint or such. The color is noted. Your fellow model railroaders and AP Coaches are another resource to avail yourself of. Every conversation I have ever had has provided new insights. We're all in this journey together.

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.

MID CENTRAL REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ANNUAL MEETING Friday May 21, 2021 @ 8:00 PM

The Board of Directors meeting of the Mid Central Region will take place on Friday May 21, 2021 @ 8:00 PM. The meeting will be virtual in ZOOM.

Immediately following the board meeting will be the Mid Central Region Annual Meeting. Announcement of awards and change of Mid Central Region officers will take place. This includes Fred Soward who will assume the office of MCR Secretary.

Normally these meetings would take place at the MCR Convention which is cancelled for 2021. If you would like to attend, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and we will send you the Zoom meeting link when it becomes available.

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

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