

# The Pie Card

Volume 56, February 2022, Number 2



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



## From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

If you've been around since the days of Athearn blue box (or yellow box) kits, you know that buying model railroad equipment isn't the same anymore. When I got back into the hobby, I was shocked that I couldn't just go to a local hobby shop and look through stacks and stacks of everything recently

released. I quickly discovered that when something is released by a manufacturer that is needed (wanted) for the layout, I need to purchase it right then and there. Sometimes that means a pre-order commitment for a costly piece of equipment relying only on initial drawings and/or photos of pre-production models. That still seems bizarre to me – pay for something that may or may not be accurate, or even look exactly like the available drawings and photos and, on top of that, may or may not perform anywhere near as well as described. But such is the current state of the model railroad economy.

Similarly, have any of y'all heard about the HO scale KRModels Shay locomotive? I found out about it while listening to a model railroad podcast when I was scratch building a car. The business model is definitely different.

KRModels is a proven UK-based model railroad manufacturing company, with a North American presence. The standard gauge, Class B two-truck Shay will be their first offering for our market. It is being promoted as a "better than ever" plastic shell/machined body and running gear model that will rival the Shays of PFM (Pacific Fast Mail), including DCC and sound (ESU LokSound v5), priced at \$449 (plus shipping from Canada). Direct-to-consumer only.

Here's where it gets interesting. If you want one, they're taking installment payments. Pay \$50 up front, then the remainder of the balance is split into three additional payments, every two months. In six months, it's paid for. Expected date of delivery is Fall 2022. If y' don't order up front, y' won't get one because no extras will be made for later sales. You can find more about the company at <https://www.krmodels.ca/> (Canada & US) or <https://www.krmodels.co.uk> for the UK models. I'm just hoping they'll decide to do an HOn3 version. -- Roaring Camp needs at least one. Two would be really nice.

I've never done a lay-away purchase, but that's sure what it sounds like to me. And, yes, I DO have one on order. And so does Ed Brennan. I didn't think the L&N had any Shay locomotives, but maybe that will be Ed's Fantasy Paint Scheme. Anyone else? What do y'all think of this solution to buying your model railroad locomotives &/or rolling stock?

## 2022 DIVISION 8 ELECTIONS

Clerk Bob Dawson read the report of the nominating committee for candidates for the 2022 Division 8 elections at the January business meeting. Nominees were: Ron Ellison, Superintendent; Fred Soward, Assistant Superintendent; Mike Berry, Treasurer; Bob Dawson, Clerk, and Stan White, trustee. Fred thanked the committee consisting of chairman Mark Norman and members Chris Broughton and Stan White for their work. He then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, as per the Division 8 Bylaws, Fred moved to approve elections of nominees by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Bob Johnson. The motion carried. (*continued to page 2*).

## TIME TABLE

**Feb 12**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Gathering.

**Feb 19**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting 600 Room and Zoom.

**Mar 12**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Bull Session.

**Mar 19**, Sat 10AM-3PM Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Saffin Center.

**Mar 26**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting 600 Room and Zoom.

**Apr 9**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Gathering.

**Apr 23**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting 600 Room and Zoom.

**May 18-22**, Indy Junction Convention, Indianapolis, IN.

**May 28**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting 600 Room and Zoom.

## FEBRUARY 2022 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

*By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman*

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
January	Freight cars

For January, we started the new calendar year with six exceptional freight car models entered into the Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest, representing some unique prototype rolling stock. Bob Frankrone placed third with his Maine Central gondola, Ed Brennan placed second with his Borden butterdish milk car with fin, and Kevin Jones placed first with his On30 wood tank car. Honorable mentions go to Rick Geerts for his Union Pacific boxcar, Steve Lasher for his CB&Q flatcar, and Russ Weis for his Heinz pickle car. Congratulations to each modeler!

Having reached the half-way mark in the model contest year, the point totals are now: Rick Geerts and Kevin Jones with 13 each, Bob Frankrone with 12, Ed Brennan with 10, Steve Lasher and Russ Weis with 7 each, Craig Hatter with 6, Ron Ellison with 5, and Eric Waggoner with 3.

In February, the contest will be for non-steam motive power. To enter the February Contest, email 1 to 3 photos in JPG format only along with the Contest Entry Form as a PDF file to [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com). **See page 7 for contest entry timeline. Key dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar.** And as always if you have questions, comments, or need help, email [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com).

### ELECTIONS 2022 *(continued from page 1)*

Elected by acclamation:  
Superintendent, Ron Ellison; Asst. Superintendent, Fred Soward; Treasurer, Mike Berry; Clerk, Bob Dawson; Trustee, Stan White.

They will take office at the conclusion of the Mid-Central Region Board meeting in May.



### FEBRUARY MEETING INFORMATION

The February meeting is 2 PM Saturday February 19 at the 600 Room, first floor of the 600 Building, 600 N. Hurstbourne Pkwy. 40222. **Use the Whittington Pkwy. (main) entrance.** This will be a hybrid meeting; if you can't be there in person, we'll be using Zoom to broadcast the meeting at the same time. Refreshments and snacks will not be available at the 600 Room for this meeting. To maintain the security of the meeting, the Zoom connection information will be sent directly to members by email about a week prior to the meeting and will not be published online. Bob Dawson will present "Louisville's Forgotten Railroad, the Civil War US Military Railroad."

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*By Stan White Membership Chairman*

The Division has 125 Active Members. One new member, Mark Kirchner, was welcomed. Nine members have renewed their membership: Barry Christensen, David Cooke, Paul Downs, Kevin Jones, Steve Lasher, Nathan Lhamon, Bill Roberts, Edward Ryan, and Robin White.

These members have been NMRA members for the number of years in parenthesis: Kent Westphal (20), Stephen Ellis (21), Henry Sanders (22), John Czerwinski (22), Eric Waggoner (23), Ed Brennan MMR (23), Jeff Enloe (23), Craig Hatter (24).

### MEMBER WELFARE

At the January meeting Member Welfare Chairman Rick Wehr reported that Mike Shane, Eric Waggoner, and Mark Norman have had surgery and are recovering at home. A sympathy card was sent to Ramona Johnson upon the death of her sister. After the meeting, it was learned that Paul Hulsman has been hospitalized.

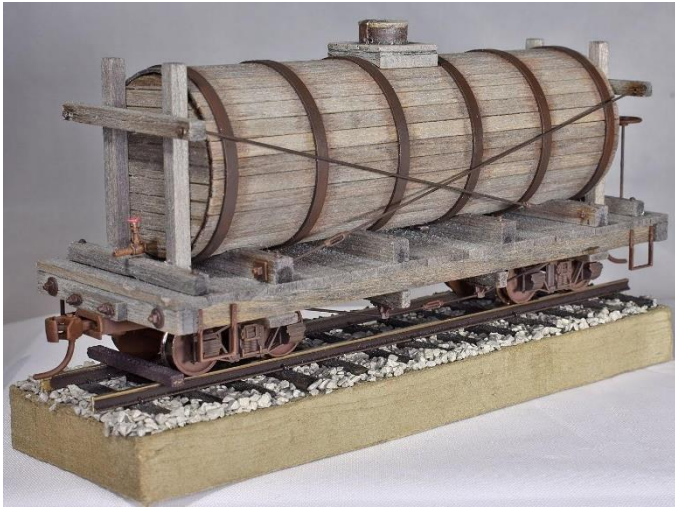
If you wish to donate, email the amount to [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com) and we'll email you an invoice to pay online. Or call us at (502) 653-5371.

*(See page 6 for the member welfare fund report)*



## JANUARY CONTEST PHOTOS

*Photos by the modelers*



### FIRST PLACE

Left: Kevin Jones' On30 Wood Tank Car.

Kevin made this model using a long-out-of-production Morgan Hill Models Kit. All wood was distressed with a file card and stained with Hunterline Driftwood stain before assembly. The frame and deck is traditional board by board assembly. The tank core is a piece of plastic pipe with the tank staves attached with transfer tape. Kevin detailed his model with castings, parts made on his 3-D printer, and some parts provided with the kit. He made the truss rods using monofilament line.

### SECOND PLACE

Right: Ed Brennan's Borden Butterdish Milk Car with fin.

Ed kit bashed this model starting with a Concept Models resin kit. See the November 2021 issue of The PieCard (available to read on the Division 8 Website) for details on how Ed made this model.



### THIRD PLACE

Left: Bob Frankrone's HO Maine Central Gondola.

Bob weathered his model using a variety of techniques and materials, including a product called Scenic Rust to create the 3-D rust effects.

## PROTOTYPE RAILS 2022L-COCOA BEACH RPM

By Fred Soward photos by Fred Soward



Barbara wanted to see relatives in Florida, and I wanted to attend the Prototype Rails 2022 RPM (Railroad Prototype Modeler) event in Cocoa Beach, Florida. We also wanted to make a slight detour to visit friends in Hilton Head, but it was ultimately cancelled enroute, so our trip became a non-stop drive to Florida. And the same thing happened on the return trip. We spent a couple of warm weather days on and off the beach before I attended the RPM meet and Barbara spent a couple additional days with relatives.

The event hotel was in the heart of Cocoa Beach, with easy beach access, and a good view of a Space-X launch the first night I was there. There were no restaurants/fast food offerings within walking distance, but there were three options for meals at the hotel. I thought the \$45.00 cost to attend was reasonable for a 2 ½ day event (Thursday evening, all day Friday, and all-day Saturday). One of my goals during this event was to make contact with people who might be coming to Indy Junction 2022 because the RPM Conference is one of the four host groups with MWR, NCR, and MCR being the other three.

The RPM event was much like a small Mid Central Region convention, but there were several differences. There were a LOT of clinics to attend. As expected, many focused on prototype railroads of the area, especially Seaboard Coast Line. There were also clinics about building scenery, layout and layout room design, and a whole lot about building rolling stock as closely as possible to the prototype. And, of course, that's what the RPM group is all about.

If you attended the January 8, 2022, Gathering or if you saw the video of it on our YouTube channel, you saw my "live" broadcast from there and you already know how much work the attendees put into their modeling efforts. Although the video was good, there's just no way an iPhone can show all the fine details during a Zoom call. Y'all just have to be there in person to take it all in. The sheer volume of finely detailed equipment was overwhelming. It was easy for me to spend way too much time just looking at all those models on display. But it sure did get me motivated!



Display and Vendor Room



**This Scratch Built Transfer Caboose was just one of the many super detailed and weathered pieces of model railroad equipment displayed during the event**

The biggest difference from our MCR conventions was the on-site sellers/dealers/exhibitors. It's not unique to an RPM event. The National Narrow Gauge Convention (NNGC) does the same thing. What was nice was the lower number of attendees (just over 200) compared to the NNGC (around 1,000). That meant there were not as many people jockeying for position to talk with those folks and that meant I could have conversations and not feel like someone was constantly looking over my shoulder for time with the seller. Over the next few months, I'll be sharing some of what I learned.

What else was different? No contest. No banquet/awards ceremony. A 45-minute "door prize" drawing at the end of the event. And some of the most friendly and welcoming model railroaders I've ever met. I was quickly identified as a newcomer to the event and frequently brought into conversations with total strangers, all having one thing in common – model railroading. And not once was I asked to count the rivets on the side of a boxcar!





### OPERATIONS ON THE RxRR

*By Bob Dawson, photos by Bob and Fred Soward*

Fred Soward and I had an opportunity to travel north to the Indianapolis area last month to operate on Dan Hinel's Rail Xpress-RxRR. Dan is a retired pharmacist, hence the name and reporting marks of his railroad. The railroad pretty much fills a 2700 sq. ft. basement. It is a double track beltline railroad that surrounds the Midwestern city of Gotham (we never saw the bat signal while we were there). The RxRR has 20 switching districts with 625 car spots. A typical session will have 12 yard transfer trains, 19 local switching jobs, and 5 unit trains (coal, aggregate, grain, well job and petroleum products) plus a lonely Doodlebug passenger train. The RxRR uses an NCE wireless system. We had a great time; Dan is a great host and overlooked some of our mistakes.



Left: Host Dan Hinel is briefing Bob Dawson on how the car forwarding system works. While not complicated, it's hard to describe in ten words or less. Basically, you set out and pick up car for car as directed by the train card, and car-type cards at the industries.

Right:  
Bob is running a switch job that originated in Havana Yard behind him.

Fred and I worked together; he was the conductor while I was the engineer.

The RxRR will be open for operating sessions and layout tours during Indy Junction 2022.

Check out the Rail Xpress website;  
<https://rxrr.webs.com/>





**Fred Soward with his Merit Award for a scratch built Milwaukee Road Transfer Caboose**

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

*By Mark Norman, AP Chairman*

Fred Soward's column in last month's Pie Card could easily be substituted for my column this month. He nicely captured several key points: Joe Fields' keen eye caught how close Fred was to completing scenery – add a few more square feet, spruce things up a bit, fill out the form. As for filling out the form, Fred is an overachiever! He provides a booklet of documentation. He is a trainer after all! No objections though so long as an executive summary up front captures the salient points. Personally, I like to keep records for personal use even now. It helps me remember what paints, parts, etc. was used. In turn, this helps with repairs. Back to Joe's observation. Step back and look at what you have. Look at the requirements. Don't add to or subtract from them, i.e., don't make things more complex than they are. Let's talk evaluation. The evaluators are your fellow modelers. Talk to them! When you receive the scores discuss why a particular element received the score it did. How else can you learn? We're human. If we misinterpreted something, speak up! If justified, we can and will make corrections.

Back to Fred, at the November 2021 meeting he received his AP Certificate for Scenery – his sixth. He is rapidly moving down the track to earn Cars. We

don't want Fred to have all the fun. Let's keep having fun together!

## MEMBER WELFARE 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: Ed Brennan-\$30; Eric Waggoner-\$15; Fred & Barbara Soward-\$100; K & I Model Railroad Club-\$50; Kent Westphal-\$50; Mark Hedge-\$25; Rob Johnson-\$25; Ron & Janie Ellison-\$50.

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

Donations are for the current fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**MAY 18-22, 2022**

↓

**Indy Junction  
2022**

MWR NCR MCR  
RPM Conference

**FOUR Full Days**  
**THREE NMRA Regions**  
and the RPM Conference  
**THREE Day Train Show**  
**ONE CONVENTION**

INCLUDES 70+ CLINICS  
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**\$95 REGISTRATION**  
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[facebook.com/indyjunction2022](https://www.indyjunction2022.org)

[www.IndyJunction2022.org](https://www.IndyJunction2022.org)

Registration is NOW OPEN. Here are the basic convention fees:

- \$95.00 Registration - January 1, 2022 to April 27, 2022
- \$110.00 Late Registration - April 28, 2022 to May 21, 2022
- \$25.00 additional Family Member(s) Registration - any date
- \$40.00 Saturday May 21st ONLY, Individual Registration (One-Day)

Sign up on the website to receive convention updates by email <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

Be sure to reserve your room at the convention rate while you are registering. Due to demand, more hotel room nights have been added.



**FEBRUARY 2022 CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST TIME LINE**

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

- February 5th - First day to submit entries
- February 12th - Last day to submit entries
- February 17th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- February 17th & 18th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 18th
- February 19th - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd

If you need more information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html>.

To enter the February Contest, email 1 to 3 photos in JPG format only along with the Contest Entry Form as a PDF file to [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com). Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions, comments, or need help, email [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com).

We will publish the Contest timeline dates each month in *The Pie Card*.

**JANUARY MEETING REPORT**

**NMRA President Gordy Robinson**

The January meeting was held at 2 PM on Saturday 15, 2022 at the 600 Room and virtually on the Zoom conference platform. Attendance was 28, with 12 attending in person, and 16 attending on Zoom. Three new members: Gary Dean, Paul Kern, and Mark Kirchner were announced.

The nominating committee made its report (see page 1 for details).

NMRA - National Model Railroad Association President Gordy Robinson joined us all the way from Orkney, Scotland. Gordy gave the members an update on what is going on at NMRA. You can view and listen to Gordy's comments on the video of the meeting posted to the Division 8 YouTube channel.

Following a short break, Bob Frankrone gave his presentation: "Fun and Interesting Railroad Museums – Volume 1". Bob covered five railway museums in four states.

The minutes for the January meeting are posted on the Division Web Site. Go to the members pages. You can also view the meeting on the Division 8 YouTube Channel.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

*By Ron Ellison, Train Show and Sale Chairman*



If you would like to volunteer to help with the Spring 2022 Train Show & Sale on Saturday March 19, just email [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com). We'll acknowledge your commitment by return email. We need volunteers:

1. Friday March 18th @ 07:30 PM to set up
2. Saturday March 19th @ 07:00 AM to assist our dealers
3. Saturday March 19th @ 03:00 PM to take down the tables & chairs

**NOTE** we have to set up later on Friday because Holy Family is having their Lent Friday Fish Fry this year from February 25th through April 8th. Lunch from 11 to 1, Dinner from 4:30 to 7. The good news; some tables and chairs will already be on the floor in the Gym. If you volunteer, plan to come early and buy yourself some dinner before we set up. It's for a good cause.

**TRACKSIDE WITH RON ELLISON**

Ron provided this photo he took of the former Illinois Central Caboose on display in West Point, KY.

This caboose was built by the Illinois Central Railroad in 1966 at their Centralia, IL shops. Originally numbered 9668 by the IC, it was renumbered in the Illinois Central Gulf era to 19968. It was passed along to the Paducah & Louisville Railroad who returned it to its original number, 9668. The P&L donated it to the city of West Point, KY.



## 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
T-Trak	Bruce DeMaeyer	502-618-0248
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](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com)

**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 32ND YEAR



**SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 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](mailto: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 - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/store.html>

Do you have a fleece to get through the rest of the winter ahead? A hat, shirt or fleece will KEEP you warm until the spring thaw! We're the L L Bean of model railroad wear. As Leon Lenwood Bean used to say, "all goods worth price charged"! Place an order TODAY for Division 8 Company Store merch!

You can email your order to [Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com](mailto: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.