

The Pie Card

Volume 56, January 2022, Number 1

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Welcome to 2022 and the start of a bright new year. Let's all hope we can continue getting back on track this year and make progress on all those things we've put off for the last couple years. I know I'm excited to move forward with work on the Santa Cruz & Felton!

So, the scenery certificate. More than one person asked. And I'm not surprised. After all, I've repeatedly said that I don't do scenery and that although I admire a layout with great scenery, it just wasn't my thing to dabble in plaster or to build trees and roads. In fact, I'd actually be fine with just enough scenery on our layout to keep trains from falling to the floor if/when they might derail or get knocked off by an errant elbow or two.

So, the scenery certificate? The story starts with our late friend and former Division 8 Achievement Program chairman, Joe Fields. About a year and a half ago, Joe Fields and Bob Dawson came by to take a look at the trackwork that I'd put down for the layout. That was in support of the Model Railroad Engineer – Civil certificate, better known as the Civil Engineer certificate or the trackwork certificate. During the course of our follow-on conversation, Joe saw the Pikeville traveling layout stacked in a corner of the basement and asked how big it was, with all three modules. When I told him it was three two-foot by four-foot modules totaling twenty-four square feet, he gave me one of those crooked Joe Fields smiles that he was famous for.

Joe quickly calculated (and told me) that I should build one more two-foot by four-foot module which would bring the Pikeville traveling layout to a total of thirty-two square feet. By doing so, I'd meet the HO scale minimum square foot requirement for the Master Builder - Scenery AP certificate. Then all I'd have to do was bring the scenery up to the level described in the Statement Of Qualifications form. It would be a piece of cake, he said.

Well, NONE of that was in my plans! But I let it perk for a while. And then, six months later, we lost Joe to COVID. And I thought about it some more. I thought about it a LOT more. Then I slowly and very quietly began working on that fourth module and sprucing up the scenery on all four modules. And, so, while working on the Scenery AP, I thought a lot about Joe Fields. And I thought a lot about all the other model railroaders we've lost over the years. I really wasn't thinking of the work that went into the scenery AP when Mark Norman presented the certificate, but of the model railroaders who were silently with me, looking over my shoulder, while I worked on it.

And now you know why the scenery certificate.

2022 DIVISION 8 ELECTIONS

The nominating committee has completed its work and has a slate of officers. Their report will be presented at the January meeting. Following the Nominating Committee's report, nominations may be made from the floor for the offices of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Treasurer, Clerk, and one Trustee positions. To submit a name in nomination, the nominator must be a regular (voting) member in good standing with NMRA. The nominee must also be a regular member in good standing with NMRA and must be willing to serve if elected.

TIME TABLE

Jan 8, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Gathering on Zoom.

Jan 15, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting 600 Room and Zoom.

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.

JANUARY 2022 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By 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 |

For December, we took a holiday break with no contest. However, a mistake was made for the November contest point totals, in that the participation points were not awarded to the three entrants in the displays contest. Adding in their participation points, the correct current contest point totals are Rick Geerts with 12, Bob Frankrone with 10, Kevin Jones with 9, Ed Brennan with 7, Craig Hatter, Steve Lasher and Russ Weis with 6 each, Ron Ellison with 5, and Eric Waggoner with 3.

In January, the contest will be for freight cars. To enter the January 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. 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.

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

- January 1st - First day to submit entries
- January 8th - Last day to submit entries
- January 13th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- January 13th & 14th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 14th
- January 15th - 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>.



JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

The January meeting is 2 PM Saturday January 15 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 Frankrone will present "Fun and Interesting Railroad Museums, Vol. 1".

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

The Division has 123 Members. There were three expirations and one new member, Paul Kern. There were fourteen renewals: Mike Berry, Ed Brennan, Chris Broughton, James Donovan, Don Fowler, Bob Frankrone, Wes Gardner, Robert Kuchler, Cathy Kuchler, Richard Maloney, Ron Steilberg, John Stoltz, John Wesson, and Rick Williams.

MEMBER WELFARE FUND REPORT

In December a get-well card and gift card was sent to Mike (Doc) Shane who had been hospitalized for a hip replacement. He is recovering at home.

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; Ron & Janie Ellison-\$50.

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.

DIVISION 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Photos by Fred Soward



2021 SILVER SPIKE AWARD

Congratulations to Barry Christensen who was presented the Silver Spike Award during the Division 8 Christmas Party. The Silver Spike is awarded to a Division 8 member in recognition of their exemplary service to NMRA, MCR, Division 8.

Again, congratulations to Barry for his well-deserved award.

(See page 7 for the Superintendent's review of the party.)

Right and below: Photos from the Division 8 Christmas Party held at the Airport Crowne Plaza on December 4, 2021.



HOSPITAL CARS

By Russ Weis, photos by the author

I think we all can relate to adding something new to our layout such as a building, then something else to go with the new building. Then a little more here and there and before you know it, you have a new scene. The same can be said for a car, or an engine when it comes to adding details to try and make it look better.

That's what I always thought about my forty-year-old Athearn wrecking derrick, it needs to look better. But what? So, there it sat along with some other so-so cars to make up a work train. Evidently our resident engineer, Steve Lasher, was thinking the same thing as many times he commented "WE" need to do something about that derrick.

Years ago, just to give the derrick a quick dulling I sprayed Floquil's instant weathering. Of course, not available now, but I can tell you it really didn't do a very good job and bugged me every time I looked at it, obviously Steve, too.

One day Steve said that we need a boom car to go with the derrick. Well, it just so happens I have one right here. It is a NYC craftsman's prototype kit that years ago Central Hobby Supplies had offered. In stepped our friend Bruce McKeown who said he'll build it for me - great!

In the meantime, Steve took the derrick home and went to work adding all sorts of extras, plus a new paint job. A short time later I now have a beautiful NYC derrick and boom car.



Now Steve says we need a bunk car, kitchen car, and a tool car - yikes! Now you understand how this article started off.

So now I/we have a very realistic work, or wreck train. Next Steve says we need a "hospital" car(s). Immediately I think of the World War II converted Pullman Standard boxcars to troop carriers. Wrong again! Steve starts informing me that hospital car is a railroad term for wrecked cars that are put on flat cars and moved to the owner's yard. If you have a bunch of wrecked cars, now you have a hospital train.

You all might remember that Bruce showed us one of his Santa Fe "open load" hospital cars. With that,

Bruce volunteered to do a hospital car for me. We have all seen Bob Frankrone show us his many great open load cars, and no doubt one was a hospital car, but my slant is not how to build, but what to do with an old car.

Steve suggested that the railroad's wrecked cars usually were placed on the same railroad's flat car as it would go back to their yard to be repaired or scrapped. I had a nice Intermountain flat, but I certainly didn't want to wreck a highly detailed, high-priced car.

Okay, I recently replaced one of my Athearn/Bev Bel NYC Pacemaker boxcars with one that has all the "bells and whistles" so we're on our way. That one turned out so nice that Bruce did two more, a two-bay coal hopper and a gon.

So now with lots of help from my friends, I have a great looking wreck train pulling three very believable wrecked, or hospital cars.

Now see what you can do with those older cars!



WAGO CONNECTORS, A NEW FOUND ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR*By Rick Geerts, photos by the author*

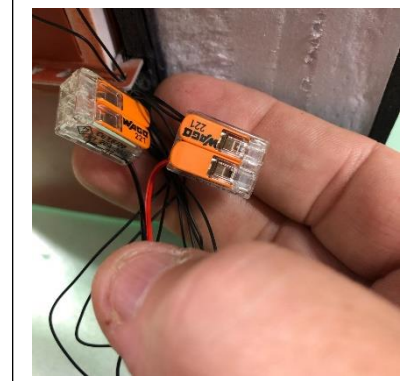
They call them WAGO connectors, but I call them way to easy to connect wires. I was recently watching a Miles Hales video on wiring tortoise switch machines where he talked about them. What I like is that they're easy to use. There is no soldering which means no burnt legs or arms from soldering under the layout. In addition, if you need to replace connections, they can be replaced without resoldering them.

To use them, strip about 1/8-3/16 inches off the wire, then lift one of the connector levers up then install the wire as far as you can then just snap the lever down and presto you have very tight connection. You can connect more than one wire per terminal, I have connected five wires on one terminal. They come two,

three, or five terminals. On all of them one terminal

has to be a power supply the others are output terminals. On another terminal the ground wires and ground wire will be connected, so you will need two connectors for each unit you are wiring.

Cost wise they run from \$5.00 per box of ten to \$22.00 for box of 100. Two, three, and five connectors are more. As far as getting them, Menards carries them and of course the internet. Get yourself some and give them a try, you won't regret it. *(Editor's Note: WAGO connectors can also be found at Home Depot and Lowes. The February 13, 2021 Division 8 Gathering video shows how Superintendent Fred Soward is using WAGO connectors on his layout).*

**LAYOUT OPEN HOUSES***Photos by Bob Dawson*

Left: The K&I Model Railroad Clubs layouts were open to the public on two Saturdays in December at their new World Headquarters on South Fourth Street. Below: K&I members Mike Berry, Stan White, and John Helton.



Harry Munzer's Swift Creek Railroad was open in December also.

Left: Harry at the controls of his vintage Lionel Layout.



Former member Charles Buschmann, 83, passed away December 1, 2021. Charlie served as Division 8 Superintendent 1999-2002. During his time as Superintendent, he was one of the driving forces in bringing about the Thoroubred Express '01, the Mid-Central Region Convention hosted by Division 8 that year. Charlie is survived by his wife Kathy, five children and numerous grandchildren. Our condolences to his family.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman, AP Chairman

What a wonderful Fall it has been! It was so good to see so many smiling faces at the Train Show, Division Meeting, and Christmas Party. At each of the events several people came forward sharing their achievements and plans to have their craftsmanship evaluated. There is certainly a good vibe among the members. There has been a buzz in the division and across the NMRA about who will earn MMR #700. I suppose that will be fun for someone. That said, the AP program is really more about the journey than the destination. Each step along the way is cause for celebration and reflection. Celebrate the accomplishment with family and friends. Reflect on lessons learned. Each step, each merit award, each AP award is worth celebrating. Many of you have heard me say, there has never been a meeting, clinic, evaluation, or convention where I didn't learn just a little more about this wonderful hobby. Perhaps more important, a new friendship was formed. Happy New Year to all!

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. 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.

MAY 18-22, 2022

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

INCLUDES 70+ CLINICS
LAYOUT TOURS • OPERATING
SESSIONS • FREE PARKING

\$95 REGISTRATION
\$25 FAMILY
REGISTRATION

facebook.com/indyjunction2022

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

Division 8 Christmas Party 2021 In Review*By Fred Soward*

We returned to the Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel for our annual Division 8 Christmas Party on Saturday, December 2. With 43 individuals confirmed, attendance was lower than usual. It was great to visit with people face-to-face, without headsets, and without the need to reach for the mute button. As I moved around the room, most everyone told me they enjoyed the event, especially the getting together and visiting part of the evening.

After a few pre-dinner remarks, we welcomed everyone and acknowledged our special guests (Larry Smith, Superintendent of Division 10, and his wife Diane; Kevin and Adina Cook from Roundhouse Electric Trains; Brian Bunger and Martin Schwendau from Scale Reproductions). Barry Christensen provided our table blessing. The buffet dinner lasted about an hour before everyone was full to the brim. A few more remarks after dinner, thanking everyone for attending and providing a brief overview of the past year (+). The highlight of the evening was presenting Barry Christensen with the 2021 Silver Spike Award.

Because we had such a good meal and service in 2019, we decided to return in 2020. There was a small price increase in the new contract, but we felt it was worth it because of our experience in 2019. And then there was that pandemic thing. The facility management would not allow us to simply cancel the contract for 2020 without paying it in full but they would allow us to move it forward to 2021. With the revised contract came a larger price increase for 2021.

This year, my meal was just the right temperature, tasty, well-prepared, and there was plenty of everything. The wait staff was very attentive during the meal. Several people I spoke to during dinner that evening reported the same. Since then, I've been informed that other attendees felt their meal was served cold and was lacking any real taste. I've addressed the issue with our contact at the venue, but of course there really is nothing to do about it at this late date.

We had already decided that we would not be returning to the venue next year or probably anytime in the future. The cost is just too prohibitive for us. So that's where YOU come in. We're looking for a new venue for the 2022 Division 8 Christmas Party. We have a few leads but would really appreciate your input. The requirements are simple – The venue must comfortably seat at least 50 people, have free parking, have easy access to the room (if there are stairs, there must be an elevator/escalator), have either an on-site menu option or the ability to have a catered/off-site restaurant-supplied meal delivered to the venue. If it's the latter, we'll need suggestions for that as well.

How far “out there” do we want to go for the meal? Probably not pizza or a taco bar or grilled burgers, but what about a catered meal from one of the bar-b-que restaurants in town? Let us know what YOU think and what YOU would like to do next year. For me, I want the price significantly lowered, but I want to make sure the meal is really yummy, too.



Christmas Party 2022, photo by Fred Soward

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

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.

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

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>

Did Santa miss your house? Do you have a fleece for the winter ahead? A hat, shirt or fleece will KEEP you warm throughout the winter months ahead! You'll be as warm as toast. Show Santa who's the boss. Place an order TODAY for Division 8 Company Store merch!

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.