

# The Pie Card

Volume 57, August 2023, Number 8



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison



It's August. But you know that. We're reminding you. Fall is just around the corner - Another reminder, **The Silver Spike Award**.

We like to remind members at least once a year to go to the website here - [Division 8 Silver Spike](#), and take a look at the list of past Silver Spike recipients. For 2 reasons; one, a member can only receive the Silver Spike award once so they can't be nominated a second time, and two, a reminder that there's a long list of members who have given a lot of themselves for our hobby. You should take a look at the list of recipients.

Here's the Silver Spike purpose and overview:

- The Silver Spike has been awarded since 1992.
- The purpose of The Silver Spike Award is to recognize those members who demonstrate exemplary service to Division 8, the Mid Central Region, and the NMRA. Candidates should stand "head and shoulders" above others through their significant contributions toward the success of Division 8.
- The Silver Spike Award is awarded annually if at least one qualified candidate is nominated. If more than one qualified candidate is nominated, only one Silver Spike Award will be given. If there are not any qualified candidates, or there are no nominations, the Silver Spike Award will not be awarded in that year.

The minimum service criterion is:

- Served as a Division 8 officer or trustee for at least one full term **OR** Served on Division 8 committee(s) such as train show, membership, picnic, etc., for at least four years, **OR** Volunteers on a regular basis to work at Division 8 functions such as train shows, swap meets, conventions, etc. for at least four years.

And so, on Monday, August 7, 2023, Division 8 members in good standing, (that means your dues are current), will receive an email with instructions on how to make a nomination. Nominations can be made by replying to that email or sending a separate email to [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com) Nominations will close 2 weeks later Sunday, August 20, 2023.

All nominations must be in an email and must clearly state the reason for nominating the person by listing his or her qualifications, must state the member who is nominating, and must be emailed to Division 8.

If there is a qualified nominee, an election will take place by email ballot in September. In the event there is a sole nominee, the nominee may be given the Silver Spike award by a motion of the board of directors to have the Silver Spike awarded by acclamation.

If you have any questions, just reply when you receive the nomination information on August 7, 2023.

Now, be thinking about getting ready to rake leaves and the end of mowing season, and of course, who you might nominate for the 2023 Silver Spike.

## TIME TABLE

**Aug 12**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**Aug 20-26**, National NMRA Convention, Grapevine, TX

**Sep 16**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**Oct 7**, Sat 10AM-3PM, Southern Indiana Railroad Club Train Show & Sale

**Oct 14**, Sat 2PM, Div 8, Virtual Bull Session

**Oct 14-15**, Div. 7 Cincinnati Train & Trade show, Lakota West H.S. Westchester, OH.

**Oct 21**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**Nov 11**, Sat. Div 8 Train Show & Sale

**Nov 18**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**Dec 2**, Sat, 4:30PM, Div 8 Christmas Party

## AUGUST 2023 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

<b>August</b>	<b>MOW equipment</b>
September	Photos (model) and photos (prototype)
October	Steam locomotives
November	Displays (no size limit)
December	Highway vehicles
January	Freight cars
February	Non-steam motive power
March	Structures
April	Passenger cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open loads
July	NO CONTEST

The first, second and third place winners for the 2022-2023 Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest year were announced at the Division 8 picnic on Saturday, July 15. Third place is Steve Lasher with 22 points for the year, bringing a strong professional railroader's perspective to his modeling. Second place is Rick Geerts with 23 points for the year, our most active overall modeler in the contest. First place is Ed Brennan with 30 points for the year, coming from behind with impressive entries in the final categories. During this contest year we had 12 total modelers participate with 67 total entries. Scale Reproductions gift cards were awarded as prizes for our winners and certificates will soon follow. Congratulations!

Final standings for the 2022-2023 Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest are as follows: Ed Brennan with 30, Rick Geerts with 23, Steve Lasher with 22, Bob Frankrone and Jacob Butler with 18 each, Stan White with 10, Al Goodman and Russ Weis with 4 each, Charlie Buccola, Kevin Jones, and Eric Waggoner with 3 each, and Joe Martin with 2.

For August 2023, we will begin the 2023-2024 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest year with the category of Maintenance of Way Equipment. Please note the early Contest timeline dates, and that the category of Highway Vehicles has been moved to December.

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

- July 29th - First day to submit entries
- August 5th - Last day to submit entries
- August 10th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- August 10th & 11th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 11th

(Continued in Column 2)



## AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION

The August Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday August 12** at the Jeffersontown Library, 10635 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299. **Note: THIS IS THE SECOND SATURDAY.** 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. Rob Bennett, member of Division 12 MCR, is presenting the program, "Transporting Transformers."

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

As of the last report received from Mid Central Region, we have 118 active members. seven members have renewed their memberships: Charles Buccola, Ron Ellison, Carl Hulsewede, Carl Johnson, Theodore Rauhut, Robert Toler, and Mike Wingfield. We want to welcome one new member, Benjamin Messimer.

## MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

Bob Johnson had a short hospital stay since the last Pie Card, and is home doing better. As always, if you hear of any member or their family ill or enduring a death in the family, let the Member Welfare committee know.

## CONTEST (Continued from column 1)

- August 12th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
- September 2nd - First day to submit September, **Model Photos** and **Prototype Photo**, two separate contests, one ballot

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

To enter the August 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*.

**2023 ANNUAL PICNIC**

*Photos on this page Fred Soward.*



The 2023 Division 8 Picnic was held at EnterTRAINment Junction in West Chester Ohio. It bills itself as the World's largest indoor train display.

The events began with a Pizza Lunch followed by the presentations of awards to the winners of the 2022-23 Charlie Keeling Model Contest.

**CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST**

Contest Chairman Barry Christensen presented gift cards to the winners of the contest period ending July 2023.

Right: Second place winner Rick Geerts.



Left: Third place winner Steve Lasher. Ed Brennan was the first place winner, but was not in attendance. Mark Norman read a thank you letter from Ed.

Barry said the Contest Certificates will be given to the winners at a later date.



**ENTERTRAINMENT JUNCTION TOUR**

Right: Following the lunch and awards, we started off with a guided "behind the scenes" tour led by the owner of EnterTRAINment Junction. We were divided into two small groups for this tour.

Following the guided tour, we were on our own to view the rest of the displays.

*(Continued on page 4)*



**2023 ANNUAL PICNIC** (Continued from page 3)

Photos on this page by Bob Dawson unless noted otherwise

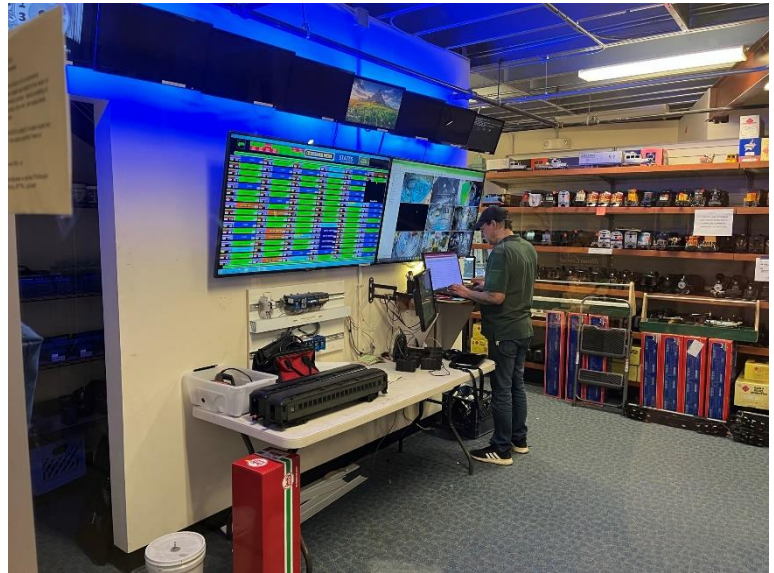


Left:  
There are four Division 8 members in this photo.

Near the center, Mark Norman is taking a picture. Behind him, Rob Toler is looking at the display on the opposite side of the aisle. Near the bottom, Rick Maloney and Bob Kuchler are checking out some details.

Right:

A view of the shop area.



Above:  
Bruce DeMaeyer checking a building's interior details.

Right:  
Our ride for the day.  
*Photo by Fred Soward*



**TRACKSIDE WITH THE SOWARDS**

*By Barbara Soward, photos by Barbara Soward*



Left: Where are we? Union Pacific Railroad Itasca Yard, Twin Cities Service Unit, Superior Wisconsin. Railfanning never stops in our vehicles; we are always on alert for a train sighting or the sound of a locomotive horn. How did we get here? We were on our way home from a visit with the grandsons, and as always, eyes and ears open. Fred is driving alongside a railyard, hoping for that Kodak moment. The road turns to gravel, but we see houses further down the street, so we determine it must be public property. We get closer to the sound of a running locomotive and the sounds of brakes being charged, and I hear a gasp from Fred as he exclaims, "Look what we found!" In case you didn't know, Fred is a fan of the Southern Pacific Daylight paint scheme. This is the Kodak moment that made the trip down a bumpy gravel road worth the effort!

Right:

Speaking of railfanning, we don't always get out of the car! This is a photo I took of Fred taking a photo while stopped by the side of the road.



Left:

On the way to visit Fred's sister, we stopped to photograph these locomotives of the Kankakee, Beaverville & Southern Railroad. We found it interesting that in addition to numbers, the locomotives had names on the cabs. We saw Larry, Neil, Tyler, and Dale. Pictured here are Larry (704), Tyler (706) and Neil (705). Dale (702) is behind them. We learned later that the names are those of employees. Made me think of Thomas and friends!

**FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

*By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent*



Above: Frank Trocchia (left) with Russ Weis.  
*Photo by Fred Soward*

After Ron Ellison & Russ Weis helped us knock out all the new benchwork last month, we hosted an operating session on our layout the very last day of June. We tied it into a visit from Frank Trocchia (Division 1, MCR, NMRA) of “That Train Couple.” (<https://www.youtube.com/@ThatTrainCouple/videos> and <https://www.facebook.com/ThatTrainCouple/>) Frank was on a mission to burn up some “use or lose” vacation time, so he came to L’ville for two days. After just a few phone calls and emails, I was able to set up a mini layout tour & operating session visit for him.

If you’re asking yourself, “How’d that happen?” The answer has many parts to it.

First, Frank asked the right guy at the right time. That would be him asking me about visiting Louisville when we were at the Mid Central Region Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, last May. There’s a lesson for all of us – Find someone who can help you and be where that person is located. Second, Frank adjusted his own schedule to make himself available at a time when several layout owners could make their layouts open. Third, and most importantly, Division 8 members were not only open to the idea, they were also totally enthusiastic about the visit.

In just those two days, Frank visited seven Division 8 member layouts and participated in two operating sessions. He also met and visited with more than a dozen Division 8 members.

Thanks go to the layout owners for opening their layouts and homes to us for this mini event (Bob & Cathy Kuchler, Chris & Carol Broughton, Rick & Lynn Maloney, Bruce & Nancy DeMaeyer, Bob & Laura Frankrone, Russ & Bev Weis). Thanks also go to Darcy Elliott & Bob Frankrone for joining us for lunch and conversation, and of course many thanks to Ms Barbara who also provided drinks, snacks, and dinner to our small operating session crew.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

*By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman*



This month’s inspiration is GOYA. Yes, I do like their products but did you know that GOYA is also an acronym? **Get Outta Your Armchair**. Armchair model railroading has its place but one usually doesn’t get very far in the armchair. Perhaps it’s time to spend some time at the modeling desk or operating trains and having fun with your fellow model railroaders. Last month the counsel ‘seek first to understand’ was shared. We’ve all heard that of course. That coupled with a natural curiosity leads to interesting discoveries. Much has been learned by asking why people do things the way they do. Sometimes new skills are learned. Sometimes interesting methods are learned. Sometimes one learns what they don’t like or what doesn’t work. The key is learning then doing. A tip of the hat to our leadership. These last few years, Division 8 was a pioneer in hybrid meetings that now rival professional productions. We have the opportunity to learn from modelers across the fruited plains, across the pond, darn near anywhere! It’s a great time to get outta your armchair!

**AUGUST 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.

A reminder that June 30, 2023 was the end of the Division 8 fiscal year. Donations are reset on July 1, 2023. No one has contributed so far for the current fiscal year. Ask us to email you an invoice for your donation.

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. When you pay online, you’ll get an immediate receipt of your donation. Or call us at (502) 653-5371 with your donation amount and we’ll email you the invoice to pay online. Or use the invoice to send a check.

*(Continued on page 7)*

**MEMBER WELFARE FUND** (Continued from page 6)

While a check may seem convenient, online payment saves time. We are a volunteer staff. Please help us save some of our time which is an increasingly scarce commodity. We need to spend it wisely.

Keep in mind we are a 501(c)(3) Non-profit. Your donation may be tax deductible depending on your own tax situation. Check with your tax advisor.

**THIS IS NOTHING NEW—IF YOU WANT A SMOOTH RUNNING LAYOUT, YOU NEED CLEAN TRACK**

*By Russ Weis*

Today there are many different ways to clean your track. Who doesn't own a Walthers Bright Boy that's been around for decades? However, some will argue that using one actually promotes dirty track by leaving microscopic scratches on the rail head. Since I don't own a micro scope, I can't dispute that, but on the other hand I don't think it adds any more dirt on top of oxidation where you still need to clean your track. There are also various track cleaning cars ranging from 20 to 200 dollars, and other liquid products, all designed to keep your track clean.

Okay, our rails are shining, so why are our engines still not running smoothly? Have you checked the engine's wheels? We focus all our attention on cleaning the track, but neglect the engine's wheels which are our electrical connection to the motor and/or decoder.

That's what I found when one of my engines wasn't performing as it once did - - - dirty wheels. At first glance they looked fairly clean, but I went ahead and cleaned them anyway. So how do we go about getting those wheel treads to be as shiny as the rails it's running on?

Since I spent so much on signals, I take the cheap way out. Get a small piece of paper towel and wet it GENTLY with isopropyl alcohol. Turn your throttle up to full and put one truck over the wetted towel and get those wheels turning. Now take a dry piece of towel to dry the treads a little and repeat the process with the other truck. WOW, was I surprised how black the paper towel was.

This should work, as just about any engine made in the last twenty years has pick-ups on both trucks. BTW, if you find that this only works on one truck, it's possible you have a broken wire and you're only picking up power from the one truck.

One note, if you're running DC, you'll either have to get a small section of track to do this on, or an isolated section on your layout; hence all your engines take off at the same time! With DCC, make sure no other engine has the same address, or you MUEd some units, or again, while you're cleaning the wheels on one loco, the other is going 100 MPH around the layout!

Okay, now that our rails and wheels are clean, I think you'll see better performance with your motive power, so go check out those wheels!



Left:  
Editor Bob Dawson uses the technique described by Russ to clean locomotive wheels on his layout.

*Photo by Bob Dawson*



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**ALL ABOARD!**  
 The North Coast Limited is coming!



EARLY REGISTRATION  
 and MERCHANDISE PRESALE  
 IS NOW OPEN!

**Convention Location**

The 2024 Mid-Central Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Middleburg Heights, Ohio

You may not find the link yet by doing a search. And you won't find it on the Division 4 webpage. But you can locate the link here on the Division 8 Conventions page - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/conventions.html>  
 Or here's the direct link to the 2024 convention page - <https://northcoastlimited2024.org/>

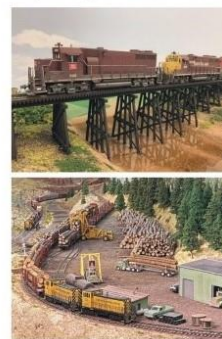
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[The Depot Railroad Museum](#)



**NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW** August 25-27  
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**GAYLORD RESORT** 4-star Hotel and Water Park  
**BNSF HQ TOUR** Dispatching Center and Intermodal Yard  
**CLINICS**  
 SIG ACTIVITIES  
 LAYOUT TOURS  
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 CONTEST AND DISPLAY  
 FREEMO-N OPERATIONS



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 McKinney Ave Trolley Shops  
 Trinity Tank Car Cleaning Plant  
 BNSF National Operations Center  
 Museum of the American Railroad  
 BNSF Private Western Art Collection  
 T&P, Santa Fe, & Dallas Union Stations  
 Fort Worth & Western Railroad Back Shop  
 Union Pacific Dallas International Terminal  
 Light Rail & Commuter Shops (DART & TRE)

**GENERAL INTEREST**  
 George W Bush Library  
 Fort Worth Stockyards  
 Grapevine Wine Tour  
 Sixth Floor Museum  
 Fort Worth Modern  
 Holocost Museum  
 Kimbell Museum  
 Globe Life Park  
 AT&T Stadium  
 Dealey Plaza

**NMRA National Convention**  
 2023TEXASEXPRESS.COM



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Clerk:	Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Treasurer:	Mike Berry	502-245-1337

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Tom Guenthner	502-363-3113
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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 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month. Photos are preferred to be a JPEG format. Documents should be submitted as a Word or similar format. No PDF's please.

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