

The Pie Card

Volume 57, December 2023, Number 12

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison



By the time you read this article on December 1st, there will be 107 days until the March 16, 2024, Division 8 Train Show & Sale. Please mark your calendar so the show doesn't interfere with your trip to Bora Bora. By the way, I've been there and there are no trains.

We'll need your help again in March. And if you can't help, please plan to attend. If you can't help out or attend, please consider purchasing an advance ticket for \$6. And even if you can help and attend, your \$6 is a valuable resource to help spread the word about Model Railroading.

Thanks to the efforts of Division 8 members, our dealers, and members of local layouts and clubs, the November 11th Train Show was our largest turnout ever, our highest income ever, the greatest number of dealer tables ever, and our 3rd most profitable show ever. And we can tell you that during the show, all the dealer tables for the March Show were sold and we already have several on a waiting list.

All and all, the fall show was very successful. And that success has enabled us to once again spread some Christmas cheer. This holiday season, we're once again able to coordinate the gift of 2 HO starter train sets to families that might not be able to afford such a luxury. This year the train sets were donated by Scale Reproductions and Division 8. Holy Family Parish St. Vincent de Paul Program will locate 2 families who have appropriate aged children and an interest in receiving a starter train set. Photos of the train sets appear later in this edition of *The Pie Card*.

We included a note with each train set, sharing the contact information of our 3 local hobby shops. And also, a link to the NMRA Beginners Guide here → [NMRA Beginners Guide](#). Don't forget this great resource on the NMRA website for those you meet during the holidays who might be new to the model railroading hobby.

Don't forget we now have a modeling contest in December. Barry Christensen will fill you in later in *The Pie Card*. The category is Highway Vehicles and we'll announce the contest winner on December 16th. That would be the usual day of our meeting. But no meeting in December. We will be having a Bull Session on Saturday December 9th at 2:00 PM on ZOOM. We'll send out the ZOOM link during the week of December 3rd or if you're a Groups.io member, find it in the Groups.io Calendar now. Either way, mark your calendar for Bull on December 9th.

The Division 8 Board of Directors wishes you a very Merry Christmas and the best in the new year. Enjoy your trains and share them with friends and family during the holidays and throughout the year.

We're always here for you. Click [Division 8](#) or call (502) 653-5371

TIME TABLE

Dec 2, Sat, 4:30PM, Div 8 Christmas Party
Dec 9, Sat, 2:00 PM, Div 8, Virtual Bull Session
Dec 16, Virtual Model Contest
Dec 23, Sat, NMRAX Quarterly Convention on YouTube & Facebook
Jan 20, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.
Jan 28, Sun, Central Indiana Division Train Show, Lebanon, IN
Feb 17, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.
Mar 9, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.
Mar 9, Sat, Div 7 Flea Market & Train Show, Lakota West Freshman Campus, West Chester, OH.
Mar 16, Sat. Div 8 Train Show & Sale.
Apr 13, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.
May 11, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.
May 16-19, Thu-Sun, North Coast Limited MCR Convention, Cleveland, OH.

NOVEMBER 2023 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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

For November, the 2023-2024 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest had three entries in the displays category, no size limit. Third place goes to Bob Frankrone for his Busy Afternoon at Ready Kilowatt. Second place goes to Rick Geerts for his GM Auto Plant. First place goes to Rick Maloney for his Weathington Manufacturing Complex. Congratulations to our display builders!

The revised point totals are now: Rick Maloney MMR® with 13, Bob Frankrone with 9, Rick Geerts with 7, Steve Lasher with 6, Mark Norman and Russ Weis with 5 each, Kevin Jones with 2, and Darcy Elliott, Al Goodman, and Eric Waggoner with 1 each.

The December Contest is **HIGHWAY VEHICLES**.

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

- December 2nd - First day to submit entries
- December 9th - Last day to submit entries
- December 14th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- December 14th & 15th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 15th
- December 16th - Winners announced on line by email - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- January 6th - First day to submit January contest entries, **FREIGHT CARS**

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

To enter the December 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 .

(Continued to column 2)



DECEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

No meeting in December. The Division 8 Christmas Party is Saturday December 2, 2023 at the Corner Café, 9307 LaGrange Rd., Louisville, KY 40242. We will gather at 4:30 PM and dine at 5:30 PM. Reservations are required.

Our next meeting is 2 PM, January 20, 2023. We will meet at the Jeffersontown Library, 10635 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299.

CONTEST (Continued from column 1)

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

MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

Division 8 member Bernie Backert and Melaine Enlow, wife of member Jeff Enlow, had passed away. A donation in Bernie's name was made to Hosparus Health Louisville. A donation in Melaine's name was made to Lewis Manor Assisted Living in Franklin, KY. Please be sure to let the Member Welfare Committee or one of the officers know of a member or their family with an illness. (see page 8 for more information)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

As of the last report received from Mid Central Region, we have 119 active members. We have one new member, Kenneth Pettit. There are five renewals, Gary Dean, Robert Schweiss, Herman Weir, Alexander Weir, Lamont Williams. Two expired, Brian Weir, Rick Werr.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

By Bob Dawson, Division 8 Clerk

The meeting was held at the Jeffersontown Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library at 10605 Watterson Trail in Jeffersontown, KY at 2:02 PM, virtually on Zoom on Saturday November 18, 2023. All officers were present either in person or on Zoom.

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FIRST PLACE

Left: Rick Maloney's "Weathington Manufacturing Complex."

Rick used several modified kits combined with scratch built silos to construct the plant. The complex measures about 24" x 24" in size which is a large structure in N scale. It is built on 1" foam that he covered with thin cardboard that he painted and weathered to resemble concrete. The buildings have been painted and weathered with acrylics and thin washes. It will be used on Rick's layout to cover an access hole.

SECOND PLACE

Right: Rick Geerts' "GM Auto Plant."

Rick built this GM Auto assembly plant using a Walthers office kit and scratch building the factory portion of the building. The parking lots are styrene with an angled dock. The roof and ventilation system, oil tanks, and piping are from different kits. Lights are from Woodland Scenics and Miller Engineering. The car loading and gates are also Walthers with cars and figures from assorted manufacturers. It is sitting in Rick's workshop now, but will soon be added to his layout.



THIRD PLACE

Left: Bob Frankrone's "Busy Afternoon at Reddy Kilowatt."

Bob built this diorama while living in an apartment 32 years ago in Washington DC. The building is a City Classics kit that he assembled and painted. Details include fencing, cars, parking bumpers, parking lines, oil drips in parking spots, telephone booth, track laid in asphalt, forklifts, oil drums, trash cans, workers tarring roof, Reddy Kilowatt sign, two box cars, people, office building, and a flatcar with a load.



(Continued to page 3)

NOVEMBER CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST (Continued from page 2)



Left:

Charlie Keeling Model Contest Chairman Barry Christensen presented Rick Maloney MMR® with his first place certificate for the November Model Contest.

Photo by Barbara Soward

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT (Continued from page 2)

Attendance was 29, with 20 attending in person and 9 attending virtually on Zoom.

New members Greg Heck, Tom Hollis, Steven Lin, and Kenneth Pettit were announced, but weren't present. Ron welcomed one visitor, Jerry Krueger. Jerry is the 2024 MCR Convention Chairman, and gave a presentation on the Convention following the business meeting. The dates are May 16-19, 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Ron thanked all who helped with this year's Fall Train Show and Sale. The next show is Saturday, March 16, 2024. The tables are sold out, and we have a waiting list.

Darcy Elliott gave a presentation, "Southern Indiana Railroad Trains at the Tree 23" to be held at Greentree Mall, Clarksville, IN for four weekends beginning Friday November 24th and ending Sunday December 17th. They will have their traveling layout along with a guest O-scale layout set up. Darcy said they need volunteer operators and ambassadors. Fred said a link to sign up will be in the Monday Train Videos for November 20th. Ron said a link for information and to volunteer will also be in the next Information Update.

Ron said the K&I Model Railroad Club will be hosting an "After Christmas Open House" Thursday, December 28th thru Saturday December 30th. The times will be 11 AM to 3 PM each day.

Nominating Committee Chairman for our 2024 Division elections, Stan White, said that all officers and one trustee positions are open. Stan reviewed the elections key dates and actions. Nominations will close at the January Meeting. If there is only one candidate for each office at that time, the election will be held by acclamation. If there is more than one candidate for any office, an election will be held in March. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, contact Stan or one of the other nominating committee members: Chris Broughton or Mark Norman.

Bruce DeMaeyer presented the meeting program, "Why Whitefish—A study of the Great Northern's Path to the Pacific." The minutes for the November meeting are posted on the Division website. Go to the members pages. You can also view Jerry Krueger's presentation on the 2024 MCR Convention, and Bruce DeMaeyer's program on the Division 8 YouTube Channel.

SAVE THE DATE

It was reported at the November meeting that an all-day event is planned in conjunction with our April 13 membership meeting at the Jeffersontown Library, with a series of presentations in the morning, followed by a catered box lunch and additional presentations after lunch. Rich Mahaney, North Central Region President, will be the presenter. Only the presentation given during the regular 2 PM meeting will be on Zoom. Details are still being worked out.

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

Last month, I wrote about Frank Trocchia from Division 1, MCR, visiting us for layout tours and operating sessions. Well, Frank wrote about his trip, along with some of his other travels and that's been published in his own Division 1, MCR, newsletter. Check it out on page 4 [HERE](#).

The middle of the month saw a small group of us (Bob Dawson, Rob Toler, Ron Ellison, and myself) taking a long Saturday to travel to the Kentucky Railway Museum and to do a bit of rail fan phun in the area. Late Friday afternoon before our trip, I received a text message from Joe Bohannon, whose layout I was supposed to have operated on during the NMRA Texas Express 2023 National Convention in Grapevine, Texas, last summer. You may remember that it was Joe's "Chinook Lines" layout that had the air conditioner go out the morning of the operating session, so it was cancelled.

Joe is an independent trucker. He was in London, Kentucky, having just dropped off a load, and had time before his next pickup. He was wondering if there was anything going on in the area that weekend. So, we invited him along for the day and met him at a truck stop in Shepherdsville! After our KRM adventures, we made a couple of brief railfan stops on the way back to L'ville. At the end of the day, we spent an hour with Russ Weis' layout, another hour on the Santa Cruz & Felton, then dropped him off for the night by his truck. Here's a link to an "Around the Layout" podcast about the Chinook Lines: [LINK](#)

A few days later I received a text message from Greg McComas whose layout we visited near the end of the LDSIG tour last summer during the NMRA National Convention. Greg said his business meeting in downtown L'ville was wrapping up early that day and that he found he would have a couple of unexpected free hours. He asked if there were any hobby shops in the area he could pop into quickly. Yup. Absolutely. Now, when he's back in town for another business meeting next September, he's planning to add a couple days to the trip to visit with us all. Here's the link to an "Around the Layout" podcast with Greg: [HERE](#).

All these connections came about because of a common interest – model railroading. And also because of our membership in the NMRA and a goal of experiencing the hobby beyond the end of our layouts.

DECEMBER 2023 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: Anonymous-\$100; Darcy Elliott-\$25; John Czerwinski-\$20; Kent Westphal-\$50. Thank you!

If you wish to donate, email the amount to 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. While a check may seem convenient, online payment saves a trip to the post office and the bank. We are a volunteer staff. So please help us save some of our time which is an increasingly scarce commodity. We need to spend it wisely.

At year end, keep in mind a donation for the benefit of your fellow members. When you're sick or recovering from a hospital stay, it's nice to hear from friends. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-profit. Your donation may be tax deductible depending on your own tax situation.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman

Merry Christmas everyone! I hope this finds you enjoying this happy time of year with a hot chocolate while enjoying trains. This is being written just a few days after the Train Show. It brought back wonderful memories of my first train set – a Fleischmann UP F unit, a German tank engine and a mixture of US and German cars. Spending time with family as well as the occasional train trip into London to enjoy the festivities. There was a flashback when our son Sean stopped by with his family. The twinkle in his son Waylon's eyes as he saw the trains running, the miniature buildings, people, cars, etc. He's hooked! Some years ago, Sean was at a train show here, operating on a Lionel layout with the same twinkle in his eyes. A man was intently photographing him - a photographer with the Courier-Journal. The next day, Sean's picture was in the newspaper. 'Ed' stopped by the Information Station and told me he has been a NMRA member for 71 years! The same twinkle was in his eyes as is seen in most of ours. That's what we do – create and share wonderful memories!

FALL TRAIN SHOW

Photos by Fred Soward unless indicated otherwise.

Thank you to all our members and our dealers for your help with the Division 8 Train Show & Sale on November 11, 2023. It was a huge success, and it would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many. We made sure that everyone had a positive experience, and that the show ran smoothly from start to finish. Thank you all for your willingness to donate your time - a commodity that for some of us is increasingly fleeting. Your generosity with your time is greatly appreciated. Enjoy a few pictorial highlights from the Show. *Division 8 Board of Directors*



Left: The day began with dealer move-in assisted by Division 8 members and young people from Holy Family Parish.



Right: Theresa Berry, "Does everyone have their badge?"



Left: Announcer, Mike Berry.



Above: Russ Weis and Laura Frankrone at the cash admissions table.



Left: Cecil Stewart at one of the "Information Stations."

(Continued on page 7)



Left: Our show was held on Veteran’s Day. A moment was taken to honor our veterans, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Fred Soward sounded “Taps” in their recognition.
Photo by Barbara Soward

Below: A view of the show.



Left: Bob Kuchler, one of the operators on the Free-MoN modular N-Scale layout set up at the show.
Photo by Bob Dawson

Right: Bob Frankrone answers questions from an attendee at another of the “Information Stations.”



Left: T-Track N-Scale Modular layout. The Lionel Operators Club layout was also set up at the show.
Photo by Bob Dawson

CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR TWO TRAIN SHOW & SALE ATTENDEES

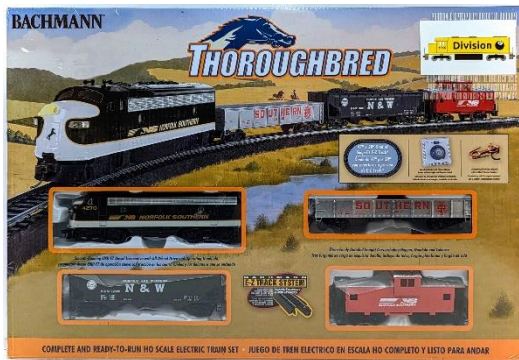
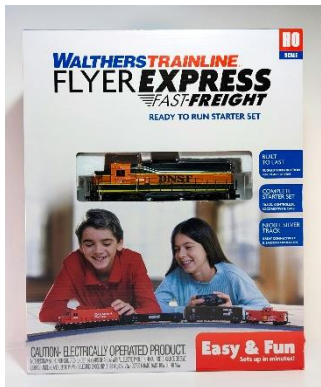
The spring and fall Train Show & Sale each had 2 special door prizes. You should be aware of one because we told all Division 8 members about it - Buy a ticket in advance and have an opportunity to win a \$50.00 Roundhouse Electric Trains gift certificate.

One of our own won this door prize. The next time you see Kevin Gilman, ask how he spent his \$50.00. In the spring of 2024 buying an advance ticket will get you an opportunity at a \$50.00 Scale Reproductions gift card.

And if you are on the Train Show & Sale mailing list and brought your postcard to the show, you had a chance to win a \$50.00 Scale Reproductions gift card. That was won by Jessica Springer of La Grange.

Congratulations to Kevin and Jessica.

TRAIN SETS



Division 8 is coordinating with Holy Family Parish and the St. Vincent DePaul Society to give two families a gift of HO Train sets they may not otherwise be able to afford.

Thanks to Scale Reproductions and Division 8 for donating these sets.

IN MEMORIAM



BERNIE BACKERT

Division 8 member Joseph Bernard “Bernie” Backert passed away on November 8, 2023. He was 76 years old. Bernie had joined NMRA in 1987, and after a lapse “rerailed” in 2016. He is survived by his wife Becky; daughters, Gina Lankswert, Janet Spencer, Ashley Kandle, four grandchildren, and seven brothers and sisters. The Division made a memorial gift in Bernie’s name to Hosparus Health.

MELAINE ENLOE

Mary “Melaine” Enloe, wife of Division 8 Member Jeff Enloe, passed away September 11, 2023 in Franklin, KY. She was 70 years old. Melaine regularly attended the Division 8 Train Show and Sales with Jeff, and always stopped by the Door Prize table to say “Hi.”

A VISIT TO THE KENTUCKY RAILWAY MUSEUM *Photos by Fred Soward*

In November, a few Division 8 members and a friend made a trip to the Kentucky Railway Museum in New Haven, KY.



We accompanied Fred, who cashed in the cab ride he won at an NRHS Chapter Meeting earlier this year. Far left: Fred in the cab of KRM locomotive, “L&N” 411. Left: From left to right, Charlie Buccola (who we ran into at the museum), Bob Dawson, Ron Ellison, Rob Toler, and Joe Bohannon. Charlie took us on an unplanned tour of the shop building. See Fred’s Assistant Superintendent Column in this month’s issue for more information.

THE "MAGIC" INTERURBAN

By *Steve Lasher*



Samuel Insull
Public domain photo

I haven't had much to contribute to The Pie Card lately but this is something new for me so I thought I'd share it with you.

I've never considered myself as a "traction" (Interurban) fan but, of late, the Indiana Railroad operation has become more of an interest. As it turns out, I have a personal connection to it.

The Indiana Railroad was but one of the many branches of the tree that constituted Samuel Insull's paper empire. Insull turns out to be a very interesting character well worth getting to know better. I'm sure my grandfather would not find it interesting, though. You see, my grandfather was one who saw Insull as a rising star and bought (literally) into it. In fact, most of his fortune was sunk into Insull's financial shell game. It's not that Insull set out to swindle people. He actually encouraged public and employee purchase of company stock in good faith and, he believed in keeping his properties ship shape. He was not a plunderer in that regard.

He pioneered in the "holding company" idea but, unfortunately, in the freewheeling stock manipulations of the day, it turned out to be a house of cards built on sand. Initially, it appeared that his empire could weather the Great Wall Street Crash of 1929. But, as it turns out, the eastern banking interests (read J. P. Morgan and Co.) were hard pressed themselves and refused to advance the money necessary to re-finance a note coming due July 1st, 1932 on one of Insull's utility properties and that was the beginning of the collapse of the Insull empire.

Unfortunately, for my grandfather, his fortune was swept away along with thousands of others with the collapse. My father always said my grandfather was a broken man afterwards and was never the same. Insull himself fled to Europe to avoid arrest here in the states although he eventually was tried here and acquitted. He eventually died in Paris with mere pennies in his pocket and, out of his \$21,000 yearly pension from his companies and holdings, his estate turned out to be worth \$1,000. He's buried in a family plot in his native London, England.

If you care to look, there's lots of evidence still in existence of the Indiana Railroad. The dramatic ramp up to the north approach to the Big Four Bridge is long gone as are most traces of it in Jeffersonville. But, the Southern Indiana Railroad trackage from the cement plant at Speed, Indiana down to the CSX interchange at Watson is still there, complete with curves and grades only an Interurban could use.

North of Speed, if you look closely, you can see the grade along with the remaining bridge abutments sandwiched between Highway 31 and the Louisville & Indiana Railroad mainline. I've never tried to follow it north of there but I'm sure you could find traces of it if you looked.

A final observation is this. Now that the idea is gaining more traction (pardon the pun) for either Amtrak or high speed rail service to Chicago it's worth noting that what we want today, we threw away a little more than 100 years ago. And, by the way, Sam Insull's greatest creation, Commonwealth Edison still survives and serves the citizens of Chicago to this day.



Indiana Railroad #65 preserved at the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, IL. Photo by Bob Dawson



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The Mid-Central
 Regional Convention
 May 16-19 2024
 Cleveland, Ohio



Early Registration is \$90.00
 through 12/31/2023



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

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**More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date.
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To contact a Division 8 board member or committee director call or text (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 20th 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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Santa will soon be on his way. And if you've been too cheap to order your own Division 8 duds, think about asking Santa, who is a generous person. The Company Store works directly with the North Pole, but order right away to get it before Christmas. If you have any questions, click or call. We'll get back to you right away.