

The Pie Card

Volume 57, July 2023, Number 7



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

It's July; but you know that. Remember, July brings us to two important Division 8 annual events. And these events have a connection. In more ways than you might think. July 15th this year is the Division 8 Annual Summer Picnic. And at the Picnic, we celebrate the end of the Charlie Keeling Model Contest year and announce the annual winners. The picnic and contest are a celebration of member participation.

We always have a few members attend the picnic that may not attend our meetings. One of the reasons we have the picnic, and the Christmas party, is to offer up a different venue to participate in model railroading. Of course, a picnic is a casual way to get together with likeminded model railroad friends.

This July we travel by charter bus to West Chester, Ohio and visit EnterTRAINment Junction. You need to buy a \$15.00 ticket in advance and be in your seat on the bus ready to travel at 9:00 AM. You can find out how to purchase a ticket here in *The Pie Card* if you continue reading. If you need help, send us an email, call or text us – division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com, (502) 653-5371. We'd like to see you at the Picnic. It's a perfect venue to meet other members if you are new or don't regularly attend Division 8 events. We're a friendly bunch!

Your ticket includes a charter bus ride, lunch including a beverage and dessert, a behind-the-scenes tour as well as access to the world's largest indoor model train display, the American Railroad Museum, the Expo Center which includes Neil Young's Lionel Traveling Train Display and the Gift Shop. If you have been before, rest assured there's plenty of new things to see.

After lunch, we'll present the 3rd, 2nd and 1st place winners of the Charlie Keeling 2022/2023 Monthly Modeling Contest along with gift cards of \$50, \$75 and \$100 respectively to the winners. The contest rewards your participation. There've been some great entries this year. If you want to have a look back, visit the Contest page on the Division 8 website here – [Division 8 Contest Page](#). If you click on a month in the calendar matrix, you'll be taken to a photo album of that month's entries. Here's a sample link from January 2023 Freight Cars – [January 2023 Freight Cars](#) just for you to try it.

And speaking of trying it; why not consider entering the contest during the 2023/2024 contest year. We've made it simple. And if you need some help with your entry, we will assist you. All you need to do is ask – email, call or text us.

Not interested in competing, then please consider voting for your favorite entry. We've made it easy and your vote is confidential. We email you a ballot to vote for your favorite entry during each contest month. We ask that you enter your email so we make sure members vote only once. Know that our members who enter the contest appreciate you seeing their work.

(Continued to page 2)

TIME TABLE

Jul 8, Sat 2PM, Div 8, Virtual Bull Session
Jul 15, Sat, Div 8 Picnic, EnterTRAINment Junction, West Chester, OH.
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, Div 8 Christmas Party

JUNE 2023 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST REPORT

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

July	NO CONTEST
August	MOW equipment
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

June saw the final round of the 2022-2023 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest year with open loads as the subject. Five models were entered, spanning the life history of metal from newly constructed machines to scrap headed for a steel mill.

Honorable mention goes to Bob Frankrone for his Southern flatcar with load and to Rick Geerts for his machine shop load.

Third place goes to Steve Lasher for his Fairbanks-Morse prime mover. Second place goes to Jacob Butler for his removable gondola scrap load. First place goes to Ed Brennan for his L&N scrap gon. Congratulations to each modeler!

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.

The first, second and third place winners for the 2022-2023 contest year will be announced at this year's Division 8 Picnic on Saturday, July 15. Prizes and certificates will be awarded at that time.

Looking ahead, the 2023-2024 Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest year will begin at the August meeting with the category of Maintenance of Way Equipment. Please note that highway vehicles is now a separate category for the month of December each year.

All Division 8 modelers, whether entering models in a monthly contest or not, are invited to bring their work to our monthly meetings to display for the enjoyment of the membership, including work in progress and items being submitted for the achievement program.



NO MEETING IN JULY-DIVISION 8 PICNIC

See page 8 for Picnic Information.

Our next meeting will be 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.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK (continued from page 1)

Did you know that only about 25% of members vote in the contest? Just like entering the contest, if you need some help, we're here for you. But we can't help if you don't reach out to us.

The same is true for any aspect of the hobby. Model Railroaders enjoy helping other people. Come to the picnic, come to a meeting, vote in the contest, come to the Train Show & Sale, participate. Let us know IF we can help YOU.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

As of the last report received from Mid Central Region, we have 120 active members. Six members have renewed their memberships: Daryl Arend, Rich Esarey, Rick Geerts, John Helton, Lisa Helton, and Joseph Martin.

MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

During this past month, we have heard of no member or their family who are ill. Great to have a month like this! Remember though, if you hear of any member or their being family ill, please let the Member Welfare Committee know.

JULY 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. (continued on page 8)

JUNE CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST-Open Loads

Photos by the Modelers



Left:

FIRST PLACE

Ed Brennan's "L&N Scrap Load."

The gondola is a Hobbyland model from the 1950's that he upgraded, painted, decaled, and weathered. Among the items used for the load are a combination of scrap parts from his scrap bin, aluminum candy wrappers and other foil, rolling stock parts, gears, and Plastruct and solid copper wire left-overs. Ed used a false bottom of styrene to raise the load so he wouldn't have to use more scrap material. He weathered the load with model paints and pastels.

Right:

SECOND PLACE

Jacob Butler's "Removable Gondola Scrap Load."

Jacob started by designing and printing an insert base for the load just slightly smaller than the inside of the Walthers Mainline 53" car using Tinkercad. The bottom edges of the insert are rounded to make inserting the load into the car easier and minimize sharp edges that could scratch the model. He cut up an old HO hopper car from his scrap box, and then painted and weathered it.



Left:

THIRD PLACE

Steve Lasher's "Fairbanks-Morse Prime Mover."

Steve began with a basic Athearn flatcar kit that he upgraded, repainted and decaled.

The load is a 3D printed Fairbanks-Morse prime mover that he painted and weathered. Blocking wood was ruffed up and weathered. A-Line chain was used to secure the load.



JUNE CONTEST (continued from page 3)



HONORABLE MENTION (2)

Left:

Bob Frankrone’s O-27 flat car with a heavy machinery load. The load is a 3D-printed model of a prototype load from years ago. Bob painted the load and mounted it to the flatcar using scale lumber for blocking. He made the crate from a wood block and scale lumber. The "do not hump" manufacturer's signs were printed from his computer.

Right:

Rick Geerts’ “Machine Shop Load”.

The flat car is a 50 foot TTX Athearn flat car. The load is a Model Backshop Machines horizontal lathe. The load is held in place by 6x6 wooden boards bolted to the deck. The lathe is bolted to them. In addition, chains tie the load down to the car. Rick weathered it with rust and blackening washes and powders.



JUNE MEETING REPORT

By Bob Dawson, Division 8 Clerk

The meeting came to order at the Jeffersontown Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library at 10605 Watterson Trail in Jeffersontown, KY at 2:00 PM on Saturday June 10, 2023. This was a Hybrid meeting. All officers were present. Attendance was 24, with 13 attending in person and 11 attending virtually on Zoom. The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM, followed by a Back to Basics segment by Fred Soward MMR®. Fred presented “Scratch building with basic tools.” After a short break for set up, Fred presented his program, “The Santa Cruz Branch—Prototype and Modeling Considerations.” Fred gave an overview of the prototype Santa Cruz Branch in central California. He then covered the basics of how he is modeling the branch as a proto-freelance Class III railroad in 1981. The meeting concluded at 3:15 PM.

The minutes for the June meeting are posted on the Division website. Go to the members pages. You can also view the meeting and Fred’s clinic on the Division 8 YouTube Channel. (continued on page 5)



CUB SCOUTS AT THE K&I MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

On June 4, 2023, Cub Scout Pack 470 descended on the K&I Model Railroad Club. The photo (left) shows the Cub Scouts assembling "Blue Box" kits, which they later ran on the layout. Scouts received a "K&I Honorary Engineer" certificate for their participation. There were a lot of smiles that day from Cub Scouts, parents, and K&I members. Cubmaster and K&I member Natalie McKee coordinated the visit along with her son Tyler (also a K&I member) and Scout daughter Evelyn. (The K & I is a 100% NMRA Club)
 Photo and caption provided by K & I Model Railroad Club



Left:

Fred Soward MMR®, wearing his Mid Central Region Secretary “hat,” presented Bruce DeMaeyer with the 2023 Mid Central Region Director’s Award.

Photo by Barbara Soward

Right:

Standing in for Achievement Program Chairman Mark Norman, Fred presented Cecil Stewart with Certificates of Achievement for Chief Dispatcher and Master Builder—Structures.

Photo by Barbara Soward



JOHN BOWLING’S LAYOUT OPEN IN AUGUST

Our friends at MCR Division 10 have contacted John Bowling about opening his layout to visitors in Danville, Kentucky on Sunday, August 20, 2023 between 1 and 4 PM. If you’ve never been, it’s well worth the approximately hour and a half, 85 or so mile drive from Louisville. We encourage you to travel on your own to see this outstanding layout.

Here’s the location and a map link

John Bowling’s Layout
406 North Maple Avenue
Danville, KY 40422

[Travel to John Bowling's Layout](#)

Above. One of the highly detailed scenes on John’s layout

This event is not organized or sponsored by Division 8. It’s simply an opportunity for you to travel on your own to see the layout.

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

It's summertime! Know what that means? It's time to work on benchwork. That may sound counterintuitive. But with warm days upon us, it's the perfect time to cut all that lumber outside on the patio and not make a sawdust mess in the garage or basement.

To take advantage of the weather, Ron Ellison and Russ Weis spent some time helping me build out the benchwork for the Santa Cruz & Felton Railway during the second half of June. In just a few days, we knocked out the basic benchwork for the next three phases of construction (5-7). The next stage of construction in those areas will be the backdrop. Work on the sub-roadbed will wait until we have all the basic backdrop painting completed for those three areas. We're hoping to have that completed by the end of August and to be running trains in those three areas by January.

If you're not on Facebook, you've been missing a great small/micro layout build that Chris Broughton has been working on. I am always amazed at how quickly Chris works on his projects and how amazingly detailed and prototypical they look when completed. Maybe we can convince him to share some of his work during a future Division 8 meeting.

Tom Guenthner is steadily working toward getting his new layout in his new home up and running. Nearly all the benchwork is in place, basic trackwork is laid down, and he's run a locomotive and a short train across most of the layout. There's a LOT to do to get it ready for an operating session or for visitors, but it's getting close.

Are you a member of the Operations SIG (OpSIG)? If so, you've probably already read the article about how we are doing ops on a small portion of our basement layout even though we've only laid track in the first two of twelve phases of layout construction. If you're NOT a member of the OpSig, find a Division 8 member who is an OpSig member, and ask to borrow their copy of the July 2023 magazine. It may open your eyes to what you can do with a small section of a layout, even when it's not fully completed.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman

Last month's column was about *lifelong* learning. Shortly after submitting the column I went to the Philmont Training Center (Scouting) for Commissioner's Week. It was an incredible experience. One of the sessions on my track was about the different generations and how we approach things. Distilled to its essence – there is nothing new under the sun. The young want to be heard and appreciated. The old want much the same thing. The lingo differs but everyone has something to offer. A key difference is the younger folks have been immersed in technology and instant communication since birth. The takeaway for me was *seek first to understand*. If we are to grow our membership and by extension grow the hobby, we need to understand our new members. Many younger modelers seek instant gratification. They purchase a prebuilt model, set it on the layout and run trains. Wonderful, you're having fun! With time and experience many of these modelers will seek to improve their skills. When they do, we're here to help. Above all, keep it fun!

TRAINS AT THE TREE

By Bob Dawson, photos by Bob Dawson

Over Father's Day weekend, the Southern Indiana Railroad and The Louisville Connecting Lines (LCL) Model Railroad Club set up their joint modular layout in at Greentree Mall in Clarksville, IN. Division 8 participated with an information table.



Left:
Southern Indiana and LCL layout.
Since each layout has slightly different design standards, the clubs built transition modules to make them compatible.

(continued on page 7)

TRAINS AT THE TREE (continued from page 6)



Left:
Division 8 member Mark Hedge answered questions on Friday from an interested passerby.



Right.
Some of the other Division 8 volunteers:
From left to right: Ken Westphal, Stan White, Mike Berry, Russ Weis, and Ron Ellison.

WHAT'S WITH BIG?

By Steve Lasher



There has been a lot in the media lately about PSR (Precision Scheduled Railroading) and the super-sized trains that result. There's been some signs that train length may be legally limited and, even evidence in the industry that there's an increased incidence of derailments with super-sized trains. Having had some experience along these lines, I hope I can help the readers gain a more accurate understanding.

I think it's funny that as the train sizes increase the prototype begins to run into the same train make-up issues as those of us who model. Now, on a HO scale size, if you begin to approach prototype train lengths - say 40+ cars - you quickly learn to put heavier cars in front and lighter ones in back. Our un-prototypically sharp curves present problems the prototype doesn't incur.

SP/SSW was more make-up conscious than most, I suspect because of its many heavy grade-sharp curve territories. There were several pages devoted to train make-up requirements in the SP/SSW timetables - most of which have, evidently, been lost on UP.

Alas, the industry as a whole has traditionally been much more oriented towards blocking for destination handling and convenience and has paid little, if any, attention to track/train dynamics. Super-sized trains are not nearly as forgiving - as the industry is finding out to its' sorrow.

Also, it is interesting that I am now seeing mention that training for handling these trains may be either deficient or even non-existent. I can tell you from experience trains over 200 cars are totally different animals. I should explain.

On the Cotton Belt, toward the end of the time I worked there, all the northbound cars from Ft. Worth, Carrollton, and, Dallas would be combined at Plano and go north. Crews changed and some switching took place at Commerce before leaving for Texarkana with over 200 cars. Due to the nature of the business, most of these would be empties so the trains weren't horribly heavy but different handling was a necessity. (continued on page 8)

WHAT'S WITH BIG? (continued from page 7)

For one thing, you didn't use the automatic air brake unless you were planning on stopping. Power braking wasn't advised and, there was enough rolling friction in the train so that throttle manipulation would take care of most situations. I do remember that there were places where you got slack action that was normally unknown. And, sometimes it was so severe that it was amazing the train didn't derail. It was always a relief to get there in one piece, get relieved and get off one of those monsters. I can understand where special training to handle these trains would be a necessity. One thing for sure, they have a tiger by the tail that they don't really know too much about.

To be more accommodating, I think the subject of track/train dynamics is one deserving of much more study and, new rules and regulations put in force. It may be necessary to save the railroads from themselves - not to mention provide a decent level of safety for our communities.

JULY MEMBER WELFARE FUND REPORT (continued from page 2)

Would you like to get the fiscal year started? Ask us to email you an invoice for your donation.

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 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.

RESERVATIONS FOR SUMMER PICNIC 2023 ARE OPEN

How to reserve your place at the 2023 Picnic

You can save your place at the Picnic table by clicking on the *Click to Buy* button or QR code on the **flyer in this issue**. There are 3 kinds of tickets to purchase: Member, Spouse, and Guest. Please place your order accordingly. A separate name is required for each ticket.

There are only 50 places at the table. The easiest and quickest way to reserve is to pay online. However, if you wish to send a check, your place at the table is not reserved until we receive your check and create your reservation for you. For that reason, we urge you to call us at (502) 653-5371 and leave a message to tell us how many in your party. We will send you a confirmation email as soon as we receive your message and create a reservation for you pending receipt of your check. Make your check payable and mail to:

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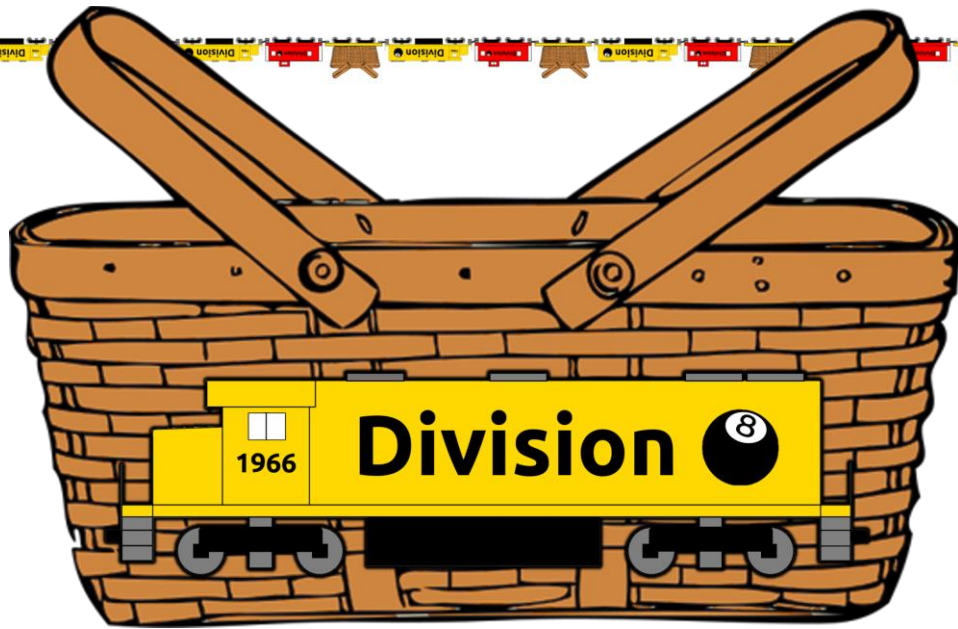
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DIVISION 8 PICNIC SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023

**ENTERTRAINMENT JUNCTION
West Chester Township, OH 45069**

COME JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL DIVISION 8 PICNIC

**Our charter bus will depart promptly at 9:00 AM
and return between 6:00 and 7:00 PM**

[From the St Matthew's Episcopal Church](#)

**Lunch and a behind-the Scenes Tour will be provided
You'll have free time to wander and shop the venue
ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THE MODEL CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED**

Tickets are \$15.00 and must be purchased in Advance



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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/>

THE DEPOT RAILROAD MUSEUM
 Part of the John Hay Center
 206 S College Ave
 Salem, IN 47167
 (812) 883-1884

CLICK FOR HOURS & MORE INFORMATION
[The Depot Railroad Museum](#)



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



RAIL TOURS
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 Private Railcars
 TexRail Back Shop
 Texas State Railroad
 Trinity Rail Car Plant
 BNSF Intermodal Yard
 Six Flags Railroad Shop
 Grapevine Vintage Railroad
 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
 Holocaust Museum
 Kimbell Museum
 Globe Life Park
 AT&T Stadium
 Dealey Plaza

NMRA National Convention
 2023TEXASEXPRESS.COM

Division 8, MCR, NMRA

<http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/>

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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

THE PIE CARD

Division 8-MCR-NMRA
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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.

DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Available:

Division 8 Polo Shirts, T-Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Long Sleeve Denim Shirts, Fleece Jackets, and Baseball Caps
 For selections, prices, and order form, go to: div8-mcr-nmra.org and click on "Company Store."



New T-Shirt

DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Company Store is ALWAYS open for business 24/7/365 Shop anytime here - Division 8 Company Store

As promised, the NEW Division 8 T-shirt is now available just in time for summer. Priced at \$17.00 and available in men's and women's, it's everything a t-shirt was meant to be. If you order soon, you can wear your's to the Division 8 Picnic. At \$17.00, you should think about ordering 2. Or one for a family member?

CLICK Division 8 Mid Central Region NMRA or CALL (502) 653-5371 TO ORDER.

Have a birthday or special occasion coming up? If your family member needs help placing a gift order, have them call us. We'll confirm the order and email an itemized estimate. When the order is ready, we'll invoice you, or an interested 3rd party, and then pay online with a credit card. We will ship your order at the least expensive rate. Or if you don't need your item(s) in a hurry, pick them up at the next meeting and save postage. If you have any questions, click or call. We'll get back to you right away.