

The Pie Card

Volume 57, June 2023, Number 6



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

You may recall from a previous superintendent's column that we are asked to submit a report to the Mid Central Region twice a year on the state of the division. These reports coincide with the biannual MCR board meetings.

The spring board meeting was just held at Rails to Pittsburgh Friday May 5, 2023.

My predecessor Fred Soward set a new standard for these reports during his administration. I have tried to emulate Fred's thorough reports. Eventually the reports will be published in the MCR newsletter, *The Kingpin*. I think you'll see when the reports are published that our reports are a great deal more detailed than the other divisions. And by-the-way, and it's not covered in the report, but we've assembled an archive of these previous reports that go back to May 2008.

I write the report and then send a draft copy out to the Division 8 Board of Directors for review before I send it off to the MCR. There is of course some marketing involved in the writing. We're trying to sell what we do. Even though the board members are very much involved in all we accomplish, we don't get a chance that often to look at the big picture. And these reports cover the big picture. So that's the reason reports are important. I'd like to think that someone ahead of us at the MCR realized this when they created the report process, but the reality is, it's probably just a happy accident.

So, I thought I'd share just a few highlights from the spring report.

Our membership is down from September 2022 when we were at 132 members. When the report was written in April, we were 125. As of May, we are 121. We have some regular members now who haven't paid their dues. With those payments, our number should come back up in June. This trend is similar for other divisions in the MCR and the NMRA. We did pick up 4 new members at the spring Train Show & Sale. And of course, there are some new posts in our Fallen Flags.

We've put together a New Member Onboarding program to welcome our new members. Our program was cited as an example for others to follow during the MCR board meeting. Information goes out to members in a specific format and order with a minimum of 3 different points of contact – a welcome by the Membership Chairman, and invitation to join Groups.io, and a welcome from the Superintendent. All the points of contact cover different aspects of Division 8.

We're using technology to keep our members informed and entertained. Groups.io, our YouTube channel, Facebook, Zoom, NMRA Interchange, virtual monthly modeling contest, hybrid meetings and Instagram to name a few. We've even created a TikTok account. We believe that technology is the track to inclusion in the hobby.

We're using online ticket sales for the Train Show & Sale and for our own events like the Summer Picnic and Christmas Party. This has streamlined the collection process.

And of course, we covered that our fall 2022 Train Show & Sale was the most profitable in the 33-year history of the Show and that the Spring 2023 attendance set a new record. (continued on page 2)

TIME TABLE

Jun 10, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom

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

MAY 2023 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST REPORT

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

June	Open loads
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

For May, Division 8's Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest category was cabooses. There were six entries, some with cupolas and some with bay windows.

Honorable mention goes to Jacob Butler for his Chessie System Bay Window Caboose, to Bob Frankrone for his L&N caboose, and to Joe Martin for his Illinois Central Centralia Caboose. Third place goes to Rick Geerts for his UP Police Caboose. Second place goes to Steve Lasher for his BCR&N Caboose. First place goes to Ed Brennan for his L&N Little Woody. Congratulations to our modelers for their creative takes on the humble crummy.

The revised point totals are now: Ed Brennan with 26, Rick Geerts with 22, Steve Lasher with 20, Bob Frankrone with 17, Jacob Butler with 15, 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 June Contest is **Open Loads**

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

- May 27th - First day to submit entries
- June 3rd - Last day to submit entries
- June 8th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- June 8th & 9th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 9th
- June 10th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd

July 2023 - **NO CONTEST**, but 2022/2023 Contest Year Awards at our Annual Picnic

July 29th - First day to submit August entries and start of new contest year, **MOW Equipment**

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

To enter the June 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 .



JUNE MEETING INFORMATION

The June meeting is 2 PM **Saturday June 10th** 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. Our presenter will be Fred Soward: "The Santa Cruz Branch – Prototype & Modeling Considerations"

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

So, all in all, we're doing pretty well. And your board of directors is feeling pretty good about what we're getting accomplished. But we recognize we still have plenty more to do.

You can read the entire report here if you wish - [Spring 2023 Division 8 MCR Report](#)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

As of the last report received from Mid Central Region, we have 121 active members. Seven members have renewed their memberships: John Czerwinski, Nathan Lhamon, Louis Franconia, Robert Irmischer, Chris Wiles, and David Burris.

MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

In May, get well cards were sent to Philip Alley after his recent surgery and also to Katie Tipton, wife of Rick, after her recent hospitalization. A sympathy card was sent to Rick Maloney on the passing of his father. As always, if you know of a member or his family ill or dealing with a death, please let the Member Welfare committee know.

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*.

MAY CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

Photos by the Modelers



Left:

FIRST PLACE

Ed Brennan's HO L&N "Little Woody."

The Prototype is a Louisville & Nashville Railroad NE-style caboose built in their South Louisville Shops from 1918 to 1926. Ed built the model from a Blue Ridge resin kit, an L&N Railroad Historical Society offering of years ago. Ed said it was challenging, to say the least!

For example, each ladder has individual rungs that must be cut, spaced, and secured with CA.

Right:

SECOND PLACE

Steve's HO BCR&N caboose started as a Walthers model, that he stripped, repainted, and decaled using various decal sets. Brake system components were rearranged with additional levers and rods added. A toilet waste pipe added underneath along with a roof vent. New grab irons and handrails were scratch-built and added along with roof ladder extensions.



Left:

THIRD PLACE

Rick Geerts' HO U P Police Caboose

Rick's model started out as an Athearn Blue Box Southern Pacific Rail Police caboose kit. As Union Pacific did when they obtained them from the Southern Pacific, Rick whited out the Southern Pacific name and logo and added the Union Pacific logo. He completed the model with added details and weathering.





HONORABLE MENTION (3)

Left: Jacob Butler’s HO Chessie System Caboose.

Below right:

Joe Martin’s HO Illinois Central Centralia Caboose



Left:

Bob Frankrone’s HO L&N Caboose



MAY 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 May 20, 2023. This was a Hybrid meeting. All officers were present. Attendance was 32, with 23 attending in person and 9 attending virtually on Zoom. The business meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM, followed by a Back to Basics segment by Fred Soward. Fred presented “Under the Rails Part 1—Prototype Railroad Roadbed”. Fred discussed the purpose of ballast, and using standard ballasting diagrams for several railroads, he described ballasting design requirements. After a short break for set up, Russ Weis presented his program “Mail and Express Operations.” Russ discussed how he incorporated switching and handling Mail and Express Cars into the passenger train operations on his layout. The meeting concluded at 3:15 PM.

The minutes for the May meeting are posted on the Division website. Go to the members pages. You can also view the meeting and Russ Weis’ clinic on the Division 8 YouTube Channel.

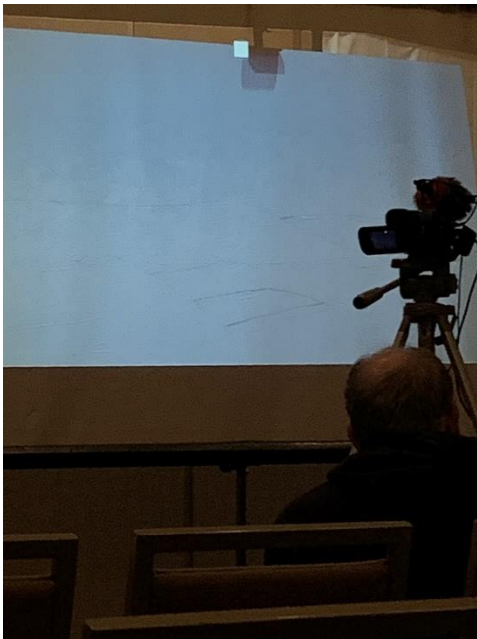
Right:
 Russ Weis presenting “Mail and Express Operations” at the May meeting.

Photo by Bob Dawson



RAILS TO PITTSBURGH 2023 MCR CONVENTION

By Barbara Soward, photos by the author

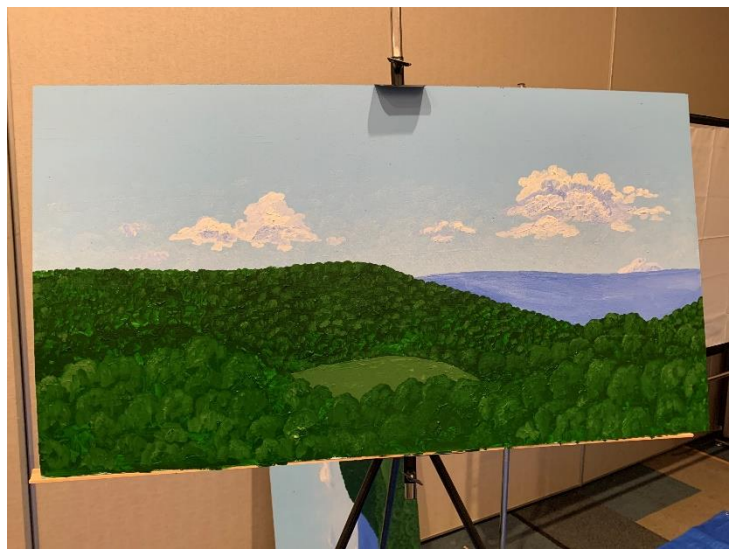


Left:

Neal Schorr presented a clinic called “Introduction to Backdrop Painting”. It was a three part clinic consisting of 2 consecutive clinic slots followed by a visit to his home layout for a guided tour of his backdrops. He started out with a piece of Masonite painted blue—the top 2/3 darker blue, the bottom 1/3 lighter blue. A sponge technique was used to blend the two shades of blue creating a hazy look. A camera was used to project Neal and the Masonite to the screen so that the audience had a better view of the techniques being used. This photo shows the backdrop with the two shades of blue and the haze technique applied along with some penciled in guides for specific areas to be painted.

Right:

This is the final backdrop which Neal created in approximately an hour and 20 minutes. He and his son commented that the painting was done much more quickly than usual for purposes of demonstration, and therefore was not representative of the usual quality of his work. Imagine this backdrop a little farther back with some foreground scenery to tie it all together.



Above (left and right): Fred Soward presented his “Don’t throw that trash out with the trash! (Adventures in repurposing) clinic. Fred’s clinic was scheduled for one of the first clinic slots of the convention which are sometimes not well attended as people are just arriving to the convention. Several attendees enjoyed this clinic, were entertained, and came away with repurposing ideas.



MODELING WITH THE MASTERS

Left: Sam Swanson, Steve Zapytowski, Bob Weinheimer, and Fred Soward, all MMR®s, along with a collection of paints during the Modeling with the Masters “Painting and Weathering with Inexpensive Craft Acrylic Paint” session.



Right: Fred Soward is assisting Frank Trocchia of YouTube’s “That Train Couple” with weathering in the Modeling with the Masters session.



Left:

Bruce DeMaeyer received the Mid Central Region, NMRA Directors’ Award for his contributions to the Mid Central Region. His dedication and hard work with T-Trak was a major factor in his selection for this award.

Right:

Bob Frankrone picked up the First Place “Display” award for his Feed Store display in the contest.





Left:

Kevin Squire created this impressive display showing comparisons of 3 scales—O, HO, and N. Each “shelf” slides out, and the glass front is attached with magnets. The buildings were scratchbuilt in order to have them identical. The display is also lighted.

Right:

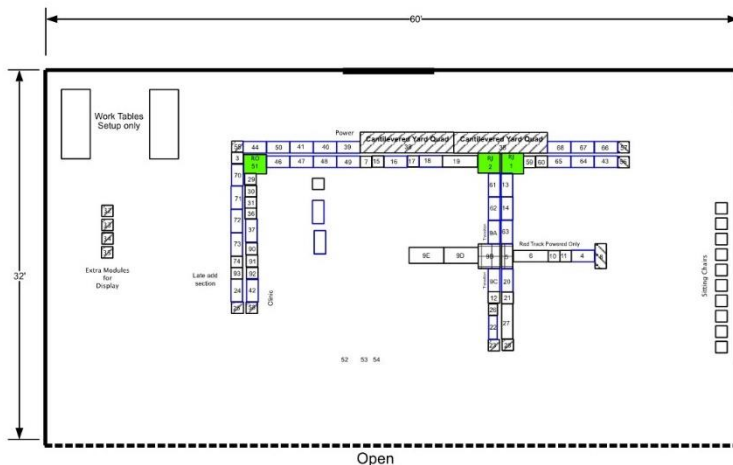
Layout tours were offered Sunday, and one of the most interesting were those of Larry Willming which consisted of an O-scale shelf layout through two rooms of his house and a 10’ X 6’ N scale railroad running through and around the wall between the living room and dining room.



T-TRAK AT RAILS TO PITTSBURGH

By Bruce DeMaeyer photos by the author

Divisions 8 and 10 participated in the Convention Layout that was set up in the Willow Room at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Mars, PA. The layout consisted of 73 modules provided by 40 module builders from 9 of the 12 MCR Divisions.



Above: Layout plan

double module. Mike DeSensi from Division 2 won First Place with his spectacular Steam-era Engine facility and Roundhouse using two triple modules. Richie Jodan won a second-place ribbon for his Ocean view inside corner. Division 8 modules included two doubles by Bruce DeMaeyer one of which he collaborated with Bob Kuchler who did some fantastic structure and scenery work, four doubles and two outside corners by Joe Martin, and a double module by Fred Soward.

The layout build began at 9am on Thursday morning and we were running trains at 11 am. We had no electrical problems and only one small mechanical problem which we were easily able to create a work around.

Division 8 in Louisville had three participating module builders and eight modules. Division 10 had ten participating module builders and fourteen modules.

Three module builders indicated that they wanted their modules judged and those modules were judged by eight judges.

Kevin Squire from Division 2 won the Best in Show for his very well-done Freight House Row

RAILS TO PITTSBURGH 2023 MCR CONVENTION (continued from page 7)

Division 10 modules included two outside corners modelled by Bob Belt and Stew Winstandley, a single module by Rick Cobb, two double modules by Bob Ferguson, a double module that both Larry Smith and Harold Weinberg collaborated on, another new double that Larry Smith built, a windmill double module that was built by Cecil Hestand, and three double modules built by Frank Stevenson.

Plans are being made to have another T-TRAK Layout at the 2024 Convention in Cleveland, which will be held on May 16-18, 2024. Keep tuned for more details during the next few months. Please give serious consideration to building a T-TRAK module. You will enjoy the effort as it provides you with the opportunity to do some spectacular scenery on your module. Contact Bruce DeMaeyer 847-302-6145.



Left:

Kevin Squire's Freight House Road. Best in Show Award



Right:

Mike DeSensi's Steam-era Engine facility and Roundhouse First Place



Left:

Richie Jordan's Ocean View Second Place



Right:

Bruce DeMaeyer and Bob Kuchler's new Country Store Module

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

We had a great time! And we missed you being there with us! I'm talking about the recent 2023 Mid Central Region Convention. There were several Division 8 members in attendance, but we sure would've liked to have seen many more of y'all there.

Bruce DeMaeyer and Bob Frankrone picked up awards (check out the write-ups in this edition of The Pie Card). Bruce DeMaeyer and Cecil Stewart helped with the T-TRAK layout. Bob Frankrone presented two clinics and I presented one clinic. Along with three other MMRs, I co-led the Modeling With The Masters session on "painting and weathering with acrylics." My Friday evening was filled with Mid Central Region Secretary duties (Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting) while Saturday morning was filled with judging the model contest. Two new MMRs were awarded during the banquet. We saw the presentation about the 2024 MCR Convention in Cleveland. Barbara & I visited six layouts on the way home. And Barbara bought four laser kit structures. She said she'd have one built by New Year's.

The 2024 MCR Convention in Cleveland, hosted by Division 4, looks like it's going to be a really great event. The dates are May 16-19, 2024. Put it on your calendar now. You can check out the basics now - <https://northcoastlimited2024.org>. Early registration ends December 31, 2023, so you've got time to think about it and the convention committee has time to build out the website with more information. And keep this in mind. . . Division 8's turn to host a Mid Central Region convention is coming up sooner than you might think.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman



Above: Achievement Program Chairman Mark Norman presented Cecil Stewart with a Structures Merit Award Certificate. *Photo by Barbara Soward*

The expression "life long learning" came into vogue several years ago. Like so many things it was presented with the enthusiasm that accompanies a fad. It is seen as 'something new' and exciting to boot! I suppose with age and perhaps a modest amount of wisdom, I found myself suppressing a chuckle. Life long learning is nothing new. For most of us, particularly model railroaders, it's simply a way of life. The rapid technological advances we have experienced keep coming at an ever faster pace. Who could have even dreamed of building a model by printing it just a few years ago?

The achievement program is all about helping one another as we grow in learning. There are always new techniques, new ideas, new technologies, different scales, and new concepts to consider. At conventions, operating sessions, layout tours, and so forth there are endless opportunities to grow our knowledge, skills, and friendships. Indeed, it is a wonderful time to be part of this wonderful hobby.

JUNE 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: Ed Brennan-\$50; Eric Waggoner-\$25; Fred and Barbara Soward-\$100; John Czerwinski-\$20; K&I Model Railroad Club-\$25; Rob Cooper-\$200; Stan White-\$50; Stephen Taylor-\$30.

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 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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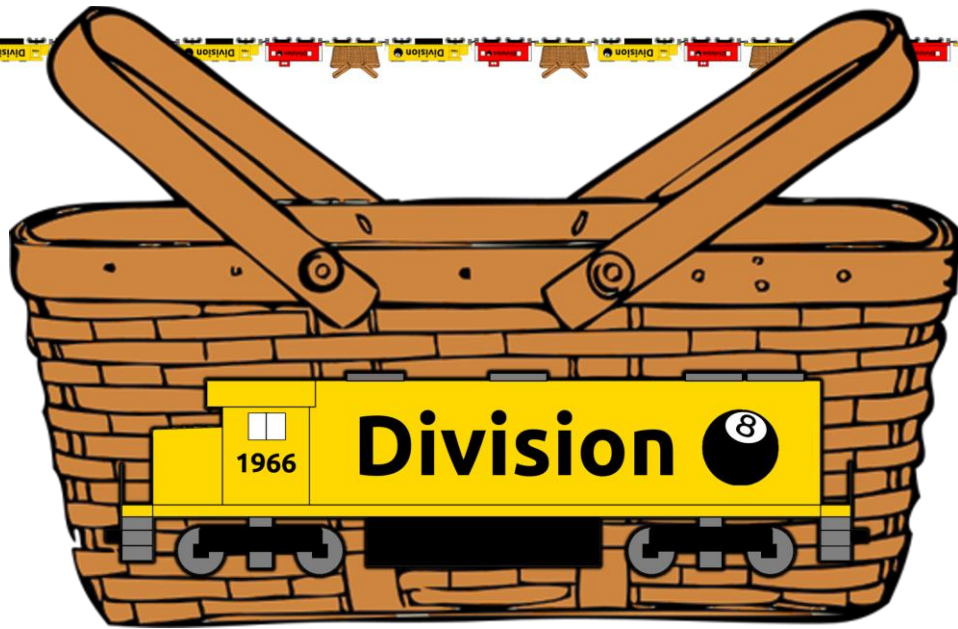
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PIKE SHOWCASE

Left: Russ Weis submitted this photo of a tri-light line side signal, based on a NYC Prototype, that Steve Lasher scratch-built for Russ' layout.

Russ said Steve used parts from Showcase Miniatures who makes the heads and a neat three light LED that fits perfectly in the signal fixture. The animation is done by an Arduino processor as are all the signals on the layout.



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
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 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
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 (812) 883-1884

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

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Presented by the James F. Dicke Family

JUNE 24 & 25
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Tom Guenther	502-363-3113
Russ Weis	502-245-7991

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Train Show and Sale	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
T-Trak	Bruce DeMaeyer	847-302-6145
Webmaster	Tom Guenther	502-363-3113

MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS

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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

Division 8-MCR-NMRA
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Editor: Bob Dawson
 Asst. Editor: Rick Tipton
 Publisher: Ron Ellison

The Pie Card is published twelve times a year by Division 8 of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid Central Region.

Please address all correspondence to Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Dr., Louisville, KY 40214 or email: dawsobl@aol.com.

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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New T-Shirt

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The Company Store is ALWAYS open for business 24/7/365 Shop anytime here - [Division 8 Company Store](http://Division8CompanyStore)

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?

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