

The Pie Card

Volume 57, May 2023, Number 5



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

OK gentlemen. The time has come. Yes, it is time to talk about our feelings. It's OK. It won't hurt you too much. And I'm sorry to be the one to have to bring this up. But it's time.

This column is not directed to our women members; it's directed at you men members. The women know how to talk about things. And we can learn a great deal about this subject from our women members. I'm actually surprised one of them has not volunteered to write this column already. If you did not know, as of April 1, 2023, Division 8 has 121 members of which 9 are women. And that number doesn't include several spouses that frequent our events.

One of the aspects the model railroading hobby has to offer is the social aspect. As much as we don't talk about it, many of us belong for the friendships. It is true some are going to the MCR Convention in Pittsburgh to attend clinics, go on layout tours, attend operating sessions, and participate in contests. But we're also going to catch up with friends we only see at MCR conventions. Folks we may have known for years. I encourage you when you see your friends, at the convention or at our meeting, to call them "friend" and tell them it's good to see them. It's OK to give them a hug instead of shaking their hand. Because for some of these friends, and you never know at our age, or theirs, it could be the last time you see them. Don't leave too much unsaid.

How many friends do you have that have gone before you had a chance to tell them how much knowing them has meant to you? We are all on running clocks.

We learned this last month that Ralph Bracewell had passed away. I never met Ralph. I had a chance to visit his layout once but missed the chance. From the talk after his death, it sounded like an interesting layout and that he was a great guy. But I missed the opportunity. And at this stage in the game, we can't afford to miss too many opportunities.

I've heard some wonderful things about some of our fallen flags. Go here and take a look as a reminder - [Division 8 Fallen Flags](#) But how much was left unsaid to these men? Yes, it's a comfort to the family of the departed to hear their loved one was well liked and respected by all who knew him. But it would be much better if we shared some of the sentiments with the person while they were still living. That's going to do the most good for you and for the recipient.

I would suggest to you that although model railroading is the reason we men gather, social relations and friendships are the real reason we can be together in this activity. That's unsaid, but it won't hurt to mention it from time to time.

So, men, be brave, and know it's OK to talk about your feelings. And most of all, it's OK to be a friend. Our women will respect us if we show some feelings. I value greatly the friendships I've made in this hobby. Let's just not go too overboard with all this, OK?

TIME TABLE

May 4-7, Rails to Pittsburgh, MCR Regional Convention.

May 20, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

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 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

APRIL 2023 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST REPORT

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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) |
| December | Highway vehicles |
| January | Freight cars |
| February | Non-steam motive power |
| March | Structures |
| April | Passenger Cars |

For April, Division 8's Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest category was passenger cars. There were six entries, covering tourist cars to office cars.

Honorable mention goes to Bob Frankrone for his scenic railroad passenger car, to Rick Geerts for his Amtrak baggage and mail car, and to Eric Waggoner for his L&N Pine series sleeper. Third place goes to Jacob Butler for his Guernsey Valley railroad post office. Second place goes to Steve Lasher for his NYC business observation car. First place goes to Ed Brennan for his Pennsylvania 10-6 Rapids class lightweight. Congratulations to our modelers for presenting some wonderful passenger conveyances.

The revised point totals are now: Ed Brennan with 22, Rick Geerts with 20, Steve Lasher with 17, Bob Frankrone with 16, Jacob Butler with 14, 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 1.

The May Contest is **Cabooses**

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

- May 6th - First day to submit entries
- May 13th - Last day to submit entries
- May 18th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- May 18th & 19th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 19th
- May 20th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- May 27th - First day to submit June entries, Open Loads

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

(Continued on column 2)



MAY MEETING INFORMATION

The May meeting is 2 PM **Saturday May 20th** at the Jeffersontown Library, 10635 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299. 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 Russ Weis, "Mail and Express Operations."

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: Rob Cooper, Carl and Rebecca Krull, Bob and Cathy Kuchler, Ron Steilberg, and John Wesson.

MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

In April we donated to the American Cancer Society in the name of member Ralph Bracewell who passed away. Also, a gift card and get well card were sent to Jeannie Geerts after her recent hospital stay.

As always, if anyone hears of a member or spouse passing or spending a night in the hospital, please let the Member Welfare committee know.

MEMBER WELFARE FUND REPORT

(See page 6)

CONTEST TIMELINE (Continued from column 1)

To enter the May Contest, email 1 to 3 photos in JPG format only along with the Contest Entry Form as a PDF file to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com. Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions, comments, or need help, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com. We will publish the Contest timeline dates each month in **The Pie Card**.



May Contest, Cabooses.
Photo by Charlie Keeling

MARCH CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

Photos by the Modelers



Left:

FIRST PLACE

Ed Brennan's model began with an undecorated used HO Brass sleeping car he bought at a local hobby shop. The model was in rough shape requiring some cleaning and straightening of some bent parts. After correcting this, he painted it in Pennsylvania Tuscan Red. He used Microscale Pennsylvania RR decals to apply the lettering and striping shown. He added exterior and interior details.

Right:

SECOND PLACE

Steve Lasher modeled this HO NYC Business Observation Car. He modified the factory installed lighting with LED interior, marker, and Inspection lights. The lights are now controlled with a decoder, and a Keep Alive added to prevent lights from flickering.



Left:

THIRD PLACE

Jacob Butler's model began as an unlettered silver Athearn Blue Box streamlined Railroad Post Office car. He painted and lettered it for the freelance Guernsey Valley Railroad. It represents a relatively new car in service in the 50's that was kept clean for use on passenger trains. Interior details were added including Woodland Scenics figures sorting the mail.





HONORABLE MENTION (3)

Left: Rick Geerts' Amtrak Baggage and Mail Car.

Below right:

Eric Waggoner's L&N Pine Series Sleeper



Left:

Bob Frankrone's Scenic Passenger Car

APRIL 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 April 15, 2023. This was a Hybrid meeting. All officers were present. Attendance was 30, with 15 attending in person and 15 attending virtually on Zoom. One new member, Owen Miller, attended. There were no visitors.

The proposed changes to the Division 8 Bylaws were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present in person and on Zoom. The proposed changes had previously been sent to the Division members via email.

Following a short break for set up, Fred Soward gave his presentation, "Don't throw that trash out with the trash (Adventures in repurposing)."



Following the meeting, Daryl Arend's layout was open for members to visit.

The minutes for the April meeting are posted on the Division website. Go to the members pages. You can also view the meeting and Fred Soward's clinic on the Division 8 YouTube Channel.

Left: A scene on Daryl Arend's layout. Daryl can be seen in the background.

Photo by Bob Dawson

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

If you've been paying attention, you already know that the results of the NMRA Central District Director election were announced in late March 2023. Because I received the most votes, I now have a seat on the NMRA Board of Directors. I won't actually assume the Director role until noon, Friday, August 18, 2023, which is right before the NMRA BoD meeting at this year's NMRA National Convention.

You may be wondering how that affects my role and status as a member of Division 8? Well, we don't expect that it will. I'll still be a member of the Division and I'll still be the Assistant Superintendent. I just won't be able to represent the Superintendent as a Proxy at any MCR BoD meetings beginning August 18. What will change is that I am required to resign as the Mid Central Region Secretary. The reason for all those restrictions is because an NMRA BoD member cannot also be a member of a Region BoD. The resignation letter has been submitted and will be acted upon at the May 18, 2023 MCR BoD meeting during the "Rails to Pittsburgh" convention.

Questions or concerns about any of that? Y'all know how to reach me through email or phone.

In other news, Russ Weis says he's installed his last set of signals on the layout, Tom Guenther is waiting for Ron & me to schedule time to help finish building the last bit of benchwork on the "new" layout, Bob Kuchler continues to knock out new structures on a regular basis, and Chris Broughton has been installing new lighting on his layout as well as designing and building an "Inglenook." What have the rest of y'all been up to recently?

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman



What is the Golden Spike Award? In so many words, the Golden Spike Award is the 'Gateway' to the Achievement Program. The purpose is to encourage you to build a few items and interact with your fellow model railroaders. Your rolling stock, setting, and engineering are not 'evaluated'. The first requirement - Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. Is there any one of us who doesn't meet this requirement? Another requirement reads - Construct a minimum of eight square feet of model railroad or module(s) including scenery in any scale. A small

module or diorama would fulfill the requirement. This could be part of a club layout that you worked on. The only paperwork for this award is a single page where you enter your name and NMRA#. The AP folks will check the boxes and send in the paperwork. You will find the AP team to be friendly and encouraging. Okay, what's with the Gateway Arch? St. Louis is called the 'gateway to the west'. By the same token, the Golden Spike is the gateway to the Achievement Program. You don't have to earn the Golden Spike to qualify for Master Model Railroader. However, you can't earn the Golden Spike *after* becoming a MMR. Give it a try!

PIKE SHOW CASE

Left:

Buffalo engine terminal on Russ Weis' HO New York Central Railroad.

Photo by Russ Weis

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Long time member Ralph Bracewell passed away on March 31, 2023. He was 67 years old. Ralph opened his layout many times, both for conventions and Division layout tours. Many who visited his layout will remember the actual railroad crossbucks and crossing signal triggered by pressure switch under a door mat leading to his back door. Ralph is survived by his wife Cathie and children: Paul Michael, John Marcus; stepdaughters Periann Meyers, April Herndon and Brooke Milby; four grandchildren; sister Patricia Bray and many families and friends.

At the request of his family, the Division made a donation to the American Cancer Society in honor of Ralph.

K&I OPEN HOUSE IN APRIL

By Ed Brennan MMR®, photo by the author

In keeping with its mission to educate members of the public and its own members about railroads and model railroading, the K & I Model Railroad Club hosted a Spring Break Open House on April 6, 7, and 8. Shown here, board member Mike Berry explains the K & I to residents of an assisted living facility who visited during this timeframe. Approximately 25-30 residents from two separate assisted living facilities enjoyed the club's layout and social interaction with our members. Other community members also attended during the 3-day sessions. (The K & I is a 100% NMRA Club.)



TRACKSIDE WITH BILL LYNCH

Left:

Bill Lynch took these photos of a Georgetown Rail Equipment Company (GREX) Slot Train on March 2, 2023 in Depauw.

Bill sent these to the Pie Card after he saw a video of it in the Division 8 Monday Train Videos.



RESERVATIONS FOR SUMMER PICNIC 2023 ARE OPEN

How to reserve your place at the 2023 Picnic

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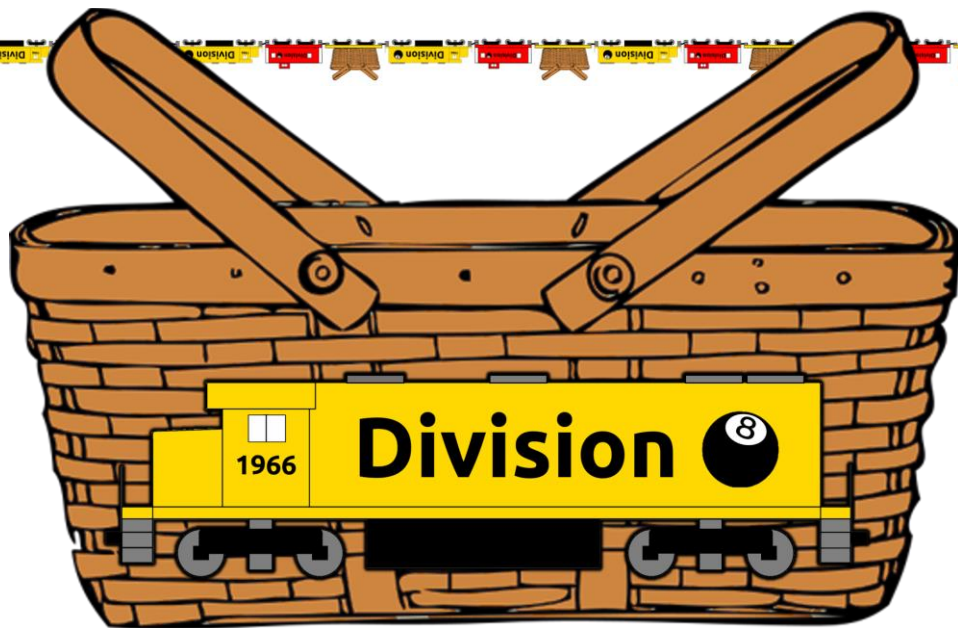
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<http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/>**OFFICERS**

| | | |
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| Superintendent: | Ron Ellison | 502-807-7683 |
| Asst. Supt: | Fred Soward | 502-499-0770 |
| Clerk: | Bob Dawson | 502-368-2607 |
| Treasurer: | Mike Berry | 502-245-1337 |

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MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| President: | Dave Neff | 440-269-1229 |
| Vice-president: | Jerry Doyle | 304-638-2826 |
| Secretary: | Fred Soward | 502-499-0770 |
| Treasurer: | John Shields | 513-561-8691 |

If you are not sure who to contact, call (502) 653-5371 and tell us your needs. We'll get back to you. To contact Division 8 or any board member or committee director by email use - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

THE PIE CARD

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dawsobl@aol.com.

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