The Pie Card



Volume 58, April 2024, Number 4

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

Daylight savings began March 10th. Spring sprung on us March 20th. All these things point to just one thing – Model Train Madness Season is upon us. We have Division 8 Train Day 2024 coming up April 13th – a full day of model railroad

presentations PLUS our April meeting. There's the Run for the Roses on May 6th. May 16th to the 19th is the Mid Central Region Convention in Cleveland. June 8th is our first Bull Session of 2024 – because we've been busy with other stuff. July 20th is of course the 2024 Picnic. And the National Convention in Long Beach, California from August 4th to 11th. And then after all that, the fall events and the holidays.

It's a lot to keep track of. But we've made that easy for you. All the dates, times and places are in the Timetable on the Division 8 website here – <u>Division 8 Timetable</u> The Timetable is updated monthly. And if you're a member of Groups.io, or you request to sign up, you'll receive email reminders of all these events automatically. (Except Derby – it's not a railroad related event.) All this prevents FOMO – fear of missing out. Information is a benefit of membership.

March 16th was the Division 8 Train Show & Sale. We broke another attendance record. We'll get into the numbers at the April Membership Meeting on the 13th. There were more families at the spring show – perhaps due to the 5 layouts on site. And T-Trak letting children run a train and earn a Junior Engineer certificate. Yes, we made some money for our non-profit. But more importantly, we shared the joy, fun, and education of the model railroading hobby. Model trains make people feel good.

Thanks to all the members who pitched in to help with the show. By our count, 36 Division 8 members and 2 member spouses were staff or participating with the K & I Model Railroad Club,

TIME TABLE

Apr 13, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Apt 13, Sat 10AM-5PM, Division 8 Train Day, Jeffersontown Library. See the flyer in this issue.

May 11, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

May 16-19, Thu-Sun, North Coast Limited MCR Convention, Cleveland, OH.

Jun 8, Sat 2 PM, Virtual Bull Session.

Jun 15, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Jul 20, Sat, Div 8 Picnic, Kentucky Railway Museum.

Aug 4-11, NMRA National Convention, Long Beach, CA.

Aug 17, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Sep 14, Sat 2PM Div 8 Bull Session on Zoom.

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

Oct 12-13, Sat & Sun, Div 7 Cincinnati Train & Trade Show.

Oct 19, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Nov 9, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Nov 16, Sat. Div 8 Train Show & Sale, Saffin Center, Holy Family Parish, Louisville, KY.

Dec 7, Sat, 4:30PM, Div 8 Christmas Party.

Dec 14, Sat, 2:00 PM, Div 8, Virtual Bull Session.

Dec 21, Virtual Model Contest.

KSONS, T-Trak, and Bob Johnson's new S-Scale layout. We thank those members for their time.

We're getting excited about Division 8 Train Day 2024. You can see the full schedule for the day plus lunch options later in this edition of *The Pie Card*. If you haven't signed up to attend in person, don't wait. The last day to sign up is Sunday, April 7th. Here's the link to sign up now — <u>Division 8 Train Day 2024</u>

Some exciting news. If you are not a Division 8 member but wish to participate in Train Day, you can join us virtually in ZOOM. The entire day will be presented on ZOOM live. See the schedule for more information about the presentations. Just email Division 8 and we'll send you the ZOOM link a few days before Train Day - <u>Email Division 8</u> (continued to page 2)

MARCH 2024 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL **CONTEST**

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

April **Passenger cars** May Cabooses Open loads June **NO CONTEST** July 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

For March, Division 8's Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest topic was structures. There were six entries, with some very impressive and detailed modeling.

Honorable mention goes to Ed Brennan for his "Trestles are Structures, too!", to Rick Geerts for his "McDonalds," and to Steve Lasher for his "East Syracuse Switch Tower."

There was a tie for second place, hence no third place winner. Second place goes to Bob Frankrone for his "Southern Roundhouse" and to Bob Kuchler for his "Hotel and YMCA." First place goes to Cecil Stewart for his "Wooden Coaling Tower." Congratulations to our modelers for their outstanding craftmanship!

The revised point totals are now: Rick Maloney with 25, Bob Frankrone with 18, Rick Geerts with 14, Steve Lasher with 11, Mark Norman and Russ Weis with 5 each, Cecil Stewart with 4. Bob Kuchler and Eric Waggoner with 3 each, Kevin Jones and Fred Soward with 2 each, and Ed Brennan, Bruce DeMaeyer, Darcy Elliott, Ron Ellison, and Al Goodman with 1 each.

The April Contest is **PASSENGER CARS**

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

- March 30th First day to submit entries
- April 6th Last day to submit entries
- April 11th Members will receive the Contest
- April 11th & 12th Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 12th
- April 13th Winners announced at the meeting -1st, 2nd and 3rd
- April 27th First day to submit May contest entries CABOOSES

If you need more information, go here - http://div8-mcrnmra.org/site/html/contest.html.

(continued in column 2)



APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

The April Division 8 meeting is 2 PM Saturday **April 13** 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. Rich Mahaney is presenting "Tank Car Industries." This program is one of the programs Rich is presenting as part of the April 13th in person Division 8 Train Day. Reservations are required to attend to attend the Division 8 Train Day presentations. See the flyer in this issue for details.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

(continued from page 1)

Don't forget about the April Charlie Keeling Modeling Contest PASSENGER CARS. There are a lot of reasons to participate in the contest. By entering, which we've made much easier, with our new Contest Entry form here Contest Page Or simply by voting for your favorite contest entry monthly in the ballot you receive by email. As Bob Johnson says, "If you're going to belong; participate.

And last but certainly not least, don't forget to register and attend the MCR Convention in Cleveland. There's information later in this edition of The Pie Card or go here North Coast Limited for complete convention information, to register, and book your room.

We hope to see everyone at Division 8 Train Day 2024!

CONTEST (Continued from column 1)

To enter the April Contest, use the **NEW Contest** Entry Form on the Division 8 website

here \rightarrow Contest and just follow the simple instructions included in the form. Entering the Contest has never been easier. 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*.

(photos by the modelers)



FIRST PLACE

Left: Cecil Stewart's HO "Wooden Coaling Tower"

Cecil Built this 300 ton Roberts & Shaeffer coaling plant following an article in Model Railroader (Oct, Nov 1951 & Jan 1952).

The model is scratch built with board-by-board construction. The foundations are hydrocal plaster cast in scratch built balsawood molds. Chutes, ducts, and gates are scratch built from styrene sheet with hand formed rivets. Roofs are covered with eyeglass tissues to simulate roll roofing materials. Windows and NBW's are Grandt Line detail parts.

For over 40 years it resided on Gil Freitag's Stony Creek & Western RR in Houston, TX until his death last year

(To learn more about Gil Freitag, see page 28 of the April 2024 issue of *Model Railroader* magazine.)

SECOND PLACE #1 (Bob Kuchler and Bob Frankrone tied for second place)

Right: Bob Kuchler's N-scale "Hotel and YMCA."

Bob kit-bashed and detailed the two buildings using "Tip Top Hotel" and "YMCA" DPM kits. The kits came with lots of details, signage of multiple types, window treatments, and printed interior panels.

The figures include the "Village People" and some careless painters who not only spilled paint on the sidewalk, but also misspelled the sign that they were painting.

The buildings include a detailed base with sidewalks, parking meters, street light, dumpsters and trash, roof details including tv antennas and heating and cooling equipment and plumbing vents.



Since there was a tie for second place, there was no third place winner.

(Continued on Page 4)

MARCH CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST (Continued from page 3)



SECOND PLACE #2

Above: Bob Frankrone's HO "Southern Roundhouse."

Bob kit-bashed this roundhouse using a Heljan kit plus three add-on kits. The structure was so large that he had to build it in place. Using the footprint specifications contained in the kit, he laid out the track configuration, turntable, and individual stalls using a CAD system. He printed the result on 28" x 40" plotting paper, and transferred the design to the layout.

He then set down the foundations of each stall and then added the structural supports to hold the roof and walls. He painted the individual wall and roof panels before gluing them to the supports. He added the exhaust stacks, doors, and a laser cut sign, then lightly weathered the entire structure.





HONORABLE MENTION

Counter clockwise from left;

Steve Lasher's HO "East Syracuse Switch Tower" Rick Geerts' HO "McDonalds" Ed Brennan's "Trestles are Structures, too!"

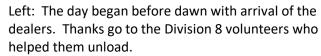


SPRING 2024 DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW AND SALE PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Fred Soward unless indicated otherwise



Right: Theresa Berry and Stan White at the dealer check-in.





Left: Bob Dawson and Ron Ellison. *Photo by Theresa Berry*







Above: Lionel Operating Club.

Left: Mark Norman and Kent Westphal. *Photo by Bob Dawson*

(continued on page 6)

SPRING 2024 DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW AND SALE PHOTO GALLERY (continued from page 5)

Photos by Fred Soward unless indicated otherwise



Right: Larry Smith (Division 10), part of the T-Trak layout group.



Right: Checking out the T-Trak layout. Below: Bob Frankrone and Carl Hulsewede.



Left: There were more dealer tables and tables in the back room (Riede Room). Photo by Bob Dawson



Left: Main show area in the gym. *Photo by Bob Dawson*



MARCH MEETING REPORT

By Bob Dawson, Division 8 Clerk

The March meeting was held at the Jeffersontown Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 2 PM. This was a Hybrid meeting with members attending in person at the library, and remotely using the Zoom conference platform. All of the officers were present. Attendance was 30, with 24 attending in person and 6 attending on Zoom.



Member Welfare Chairman Mike Berry reported that Bob Johnson and Rick Tipton were hospitalized. Bob attended the March meeting, and Rick Tipton is recovering at home.

Left: Superintendent Ron Ellison presented Cecil Stewart with his first place certificate for the March Contest. (Photo by Fred Soward).

Programs and Meetings Chairman Russ Weis announced that Bob Frankrone is presenting the program, "Carrie Blast Furnace National Historic Site." April will be "Division 8 Train Day 2024" an all-day event in conjunction with the April 13th meeting. Rich Mahaney, North Central Region NMRA President, will be presenting programs in person throughout the day including during the Division Membership meeting. You need to sign up to attend the presentations.

There will be a catered box lunch available by pre-ordering for \$5 for those attending all day. Russ said only the program presented at the regular Membership Meeting along with the meeting will be on Zoom.

Following the Business Portion of the meeting, Fred Soward MMR® presented a Back to Basics segment, "An Overview of the NMRA Achievement Program." The meeting concluded after Bob Frankrone's presentation.

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

There's been a lot of activity in our basement this past month. None of it has been directly related to layout work. Instead, it's mostly been on the workbench, as I've been creating examples of using Pan Pastels for the MWTM clinic Steve Zapytowski MMR and I are presenting at the upcoming Mid Central Region Convention.

Tom Guenthner asked me over to look at his layout the other day. Wow! He's made a LOT of progress in the past couple of months. Still a bit of trackwork to lay down, but he has a turntable installed, a duck-under/lift-out bridge installed, and a whole lot of scenery in place.

Cathy Kuchler reports that Bob is nearing completion on the final section of his basement layout. Trackwork has been in for a while and the drops are now wired as well. I'm sure he'll be working on refining scenery soon.

Rick Maloney is revising some trackwork on his layout and is working on updating the operating scheme. I'm hoping we can be up in his attic to check out the new AC unit sometime this summer. And maybe run some trains, too.

Eric Waggoner tells me he's cleaned out his basement (post-retirement) and he's seriously looking at laying down some trackwork. Soon.

Russ Weis is steadily moving toward giving the dispatcher full control over staging on his layout. It's possible to make it work now, but there are still a few bugs to work out. I can hardly wait.

I was thinking that maybe next month I'll be able to report on some substantial work on our own basement layout. Then I looked at my calendar for next month. Nope. Probably not gonna happen. So, instead of waiting for me to tell y'all I didn't get anything done, how about telling us what YOU got done on your own layout next month?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 118 active members. There were five renewals, Mike Berry, Tyler Dean, Paul Downs, Owen Miller, Stan White. One expired, Patricia Harding.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®. AP Chairman

This month, we've awarded two AP certificates and another is on the way. As Rick Maloney famously said, "Just do the paperwork." It's fun for me to help you in your endeavors. In conversations, I often hear comments from fellow modelers awestruck by what they see online, in magazines, and in person. Guess what? Those modelers were once awestruck too. They simply kept chipping away at the modeling desk, getting better the more they did. More importantly, they asked others for help. We are all in this hobby together. Have a question? Ask a fellow modeler.





CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDED

Above left: AP Chairman Mark Norman MMR® presented Stan White with a Certificate of Achievement "Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical" at the March meeting. Mark presented Darcy Elliott with a Certificate of Achievement "Association Volunteer" at the Spring Division 8 Train show and Sale.

Photos by Fred Soward

APRIL 2024 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. And, when you are sick or recovering from a hospital stay, it's nice to hear from friends.

Donations fiscal YTD: Anonymous-\$100; Bob Johnson-\$10; Darcy Elliott-\$25; Eric Waggoner-\$25; Greg Gephart-\$50; John Czerwinski-\$20; Keeling Family-\$200; Kent Westphal-\$50. Thank you!

If you wish to donate, email the amount to <u>division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com</u> 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 an all volunteer staff. So please help us save some of our time which is an increasingly scarce commodity which we need to spend wisely.

We are a 501(c)(3) Non-profit. Your donation may be tax deductible depending on your own tax situation.

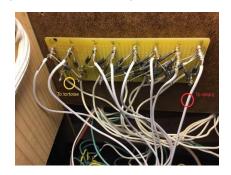
MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

A get well and gift card was sent to Bob Johnson on his recent hospital stay. Bob is home and doing well. As always, please let the Member Welfare committee or someone on the Board know when a member is hospitalized or have had a death in the family.

COMBINING NEW AND OLD

By Russ Weis, Photos by Author



For those who have not been to my layout, or the ones who have and didn't realize it, the main freight yard and all three staging yard ladders are controlled by a diode matrix. The diode matrix is old school, but works well when using a rotary switch. The diodes align the turnouts to whatever track you've selected thus eliminating a number of toggle switches and the chances an operator doesn't select the right combination of toggles.

Left: Diode matrix rack.

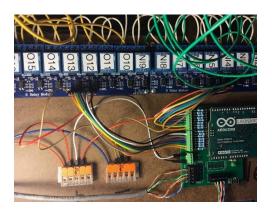
From my presentation at the November, 2023 Division 8 meeting, I explained how I incorporated CTC dispatcher control for key crossovers and sidings on the layout using Intelligent Turnout Controls (ITC) and Arduino processors.

The final phase of this three year project was to have dispatcher control of the staging yards. The problem: how can we still use the diode matrix, which would cut down on time, money (ITCs cost \$20 each), and the most important, rewiring all the staging panels, yet still have dispatcher control. Oh yes, just like on the layout, they still have local control when needed.

You may remember that our old friend Jim Petro has a friend, Dennis Dury, who did all the programming for the signal and CTC Arduino. Dennis did some research and found some relays (ELEGOO 8 Channel DC 5V Relay Module) that will take the place of the rotary switch when in dispatcher control - how neat is that!

Right: Contacts on rotary switches

What was added to the original switch panel was a DPDT toggle for each rotary switch. I took the common wire from the rotary switch to the common on the toggle. Then I ran a new wire from one side of the DPDT to the rotary.



Our new electronic relays are daisy-chained and the final wire goes to the other side of our DPDT. Now we can select either local control as we've always had, or flip the toggle the other way and have the dispatcher select the route though the relays.

Left: New electronic relay blocks. The numbers correspond to staging tracks - "O" for out, or departure - "N" for in, or arrival.

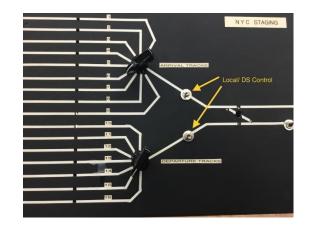
The relays send the signal to the diode matrix and the tracks align as they always have. You may ask, why a double pole where a single pole would do the job? The other side of the double pole will be used to illuminate an LED

to alert anyone that the panel is in local control.

The only negative of this system is that the dispatcher does not control whether the staging is in local, or dispatcher control, hence the LED on the panel.

I hope to soon have my first ops using the new system and will let you know how it works. If you ever thought of up-grading your old switching system, or combining it like I did, I'm sure there is a component out there that will work for you.

Right: Revised panel board with local/dispatcher control toggles.





DIVISION 8 TRAIN DAY 2024

SATURDAY APRIL 13, 2024 JEFFERSONTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY

Our presenter for each presentation will be Rich Mahaney. Rich is NMRA North Central Region President and resides in Gobles, Michigan, northwest of Kalamazoo. His background is corporate and plant level loss control, emergency response, hazardous materials, emergency management, and training programs for the past 52 years. And of course, a model railroader.

10:30 TO 11:30	TANK CARS 101 FOR MODEL RAILROADERS
11:30 TO 12:30	LUNCH - BYO or ORDER A BOX LUNCH
12:30 TO 1:30	SELECTING INDUSTRIES FOR YOUR MODEL RAILROAD
1:30 TO 2:00	BREAK + MEET & GREET with RICH MAHANEY
2:00 TO 2:30	DIVISION 8 MEMBERSHIP MEETING
2:30 TO 3:30	TANK CAR INDUSTRIES
3:30 TO 3:45	BREAK
3:45 TO 4:30	IMAGINATION – TECHNIQUES TO FILL IN THE DETAILS
4:30 TO 4:45	FINAL COMMENTS, QUESTIONS & CLEANUP

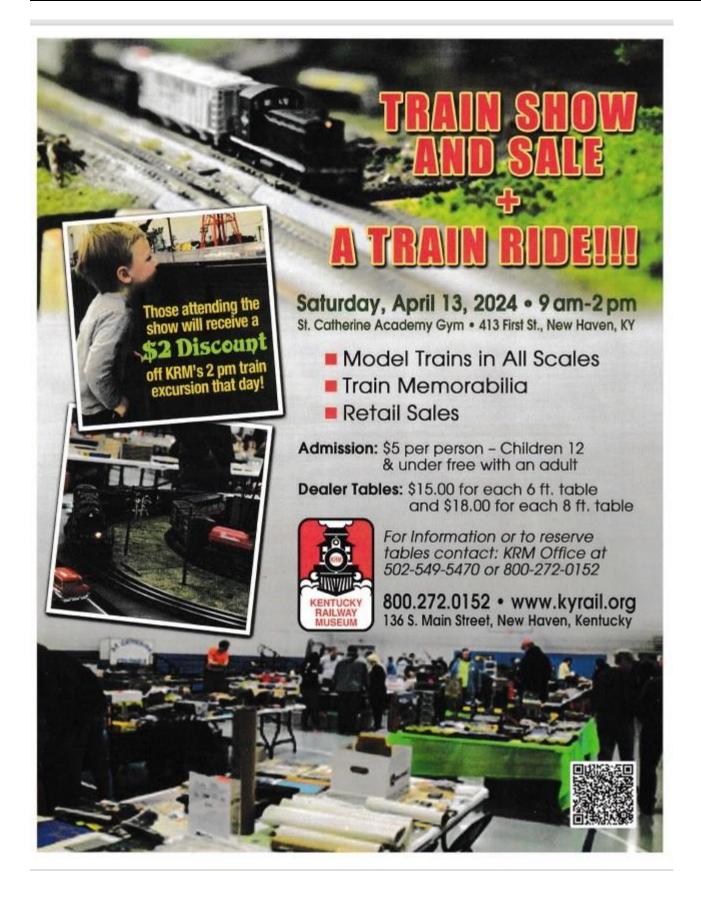
SEATING IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT FOR THE PRESENTATIONS AND LUNCH USING THIS LINK

□ DIVISION 8 TRAIN DAY 2024

SIGN UP FOR ALL 4 PRESENTATIONS OR JUST THE PRESENTATIONS YOU CHOOSE

AND ORDER A BOX LUNCH FOR \$5.00

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DIVISION 8 MCR NMRA





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Roundhouse Electric Trains

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



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



www.northcoastlimited2024.org

Convention Merchandise

The North Coast Limited 2024 Convention offers two Convention Cars and a Large selection of Men & Women's apparel

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Layout Tours, Operating Sessions, 4 Clinic Rooms (including make & take clinicsfor a small fee) Celebration of Modeling, Yard Sale, Prototype Tours, General interest Tours, Non-Rail Tours

More events are being added as the NCL moves closer to the convention date Look for updates on the NCL site!

Many Restaurants are located within walking distance of the Crown Plaza Hotel.



EARLY REGISTRATION
and MERCHANDISE PRESALE
IS NOW OPEN!

Register or print out
a registration form

Crowne Plaza Hotel

7230 Engle Rd, Middleburg Heights, OH, 44130 (855)797-6733



www.north coast limited 2024. org

See the lineup of layouts that will be open for the convention on the next page.



UPSCALE HOBBIES

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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

LOOK AT THE LINEUP OF LAYOUTS TO VISIT!

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





Bram Bailey's Ontario Central Railway. Look for his layout in a future isses of RMC!

RIGHT, Mark Pekelnicky's Conrail Toledo Sub Railroad

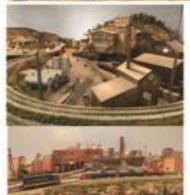








LEFT, John Witt's Copper Peninsula Railroad.





Layout on the web site!

Bram Bailey John Witt John Puch Joe Filipiak Dave Lawier Ron Morgan Ben Lanza Terry Kolenc Mark Pekelnicky
Steve Riddlebaugh
Joe Kurilec, MMR ®
Paul Novak & Sons
Jim Peters
Jerry Jordak
Cuyahoga Valley &
West Shore Model
Railroad Club.

Check the website, more layouts will be added

www.northcoastlimited2024.org

ABOVE TOP & BOTTOM, John Puch's Union Valley Central









Division 8, MCR, NMRA

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

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Asst. Supt: Fred Soward
Clerk: Bob Dawson
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Vice-president: Jerry Doyle
Secretary: Bruce DeMaeyer
Treasurer: John Shields

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

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.

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

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And if you have any questions, also click or call. We'll get back to you right away.

With warmer days just around the corner, time to think about a Division 8 short sleeve polo or t-shirt. And there's a good reason to look your best. Bob Dawson is stepping down as Clerk after the May Membership Meeting. To fill up some of his newly available spare time, beginning with the May edition of *The Pie Card*, Bob will write a Model Railroading Fashion column featuring best dressed model railroaders each month. Bob will be snapping photos at our meetings and all our events and posting the best outfits. We can't wait to see who Bob will feature in his first column. If you order that new t-shirt or polo, it could be you.