

The Pie Card

Volume 58, August 2024, Number 8



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

Have you ordered your Thanksgiving Turkey? Made holiday reservations? Started a list to give to Santa Claus? I know – we've just brushed the crumbs off our laps from the Picnic. But we're all on running clocks!

And we're happy to remind you that it will soon be time to book your seat at the Division 8 Christmas Party table. The party is at the Corner Café again on December 7th. And you will soon be able to make a reservation – but not quite yet. First things first.

It's time for Silver Spike Nominations. On Monday, August 5, 2024, voting members will receive an email with instructions on how to make a nomination for the 2024 Silver Spike Award. Nominations will close 2 weeks later at the end of day on Monday August 19, 2024. A nomination can be made by replying to that email or by sending a separate email to

division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

All nominations must be in an email to Division 8 and must clearly state the reason for nominating the person by listing their qualifications and must state the name of the member who is making the nomination. It will all be conveniently spelled out for you in the nomination email you'll receive on August 5th.

A Division 8 member can only receive the Silver Spike award once. To see a list of recipients, go here - [Silver Spike Award Recipients](#) There you'll see a long list of Division 8 members who, as it reads on the award plaque, *Holds the railroad together, symbolizes the strength of the road, and shine as one of the stars to guide us down the track.*

The minimum service criteria are:

Served as a Division 8 officer or trustee for at least one full term **OR** Served on Division 8 committee(s) such as train show, membership, picnic, etc., for at least four years, **OR** Volunteers on a regular basis to work at Division 8 functions such as train shows, meets, conventions, etc. for at least four years.

If there are qualified nominees, an election will take place by email ballot in September. In the event there is a sole nominee, the nominee may be given the Silver Spike award by a motion of the board of directors to have the Silver Spike awarded by acclamation.

If you have any questions, just reply when you receive nomination information on August 5th.

Now be thinking about what's for Thanksgiving dinner and what are you going to put on your Christmas List. And OH, by-the-way! – Train Show & Sale on November 16, 2024.

[DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW & SALE](#)

TIME TABLE

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

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

Aug 24, Sat 10AM, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

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

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

Sep 28, Sat 5PM, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

Oct 12-13, Div 7 Train & Trade Show, Lakota West HS, West Chester, OH.

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

Oct 26, Sat 5PM, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

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

Nov 16, Sat 10AM-3PM, Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Safin Center, Holy Family Parish

Nov 23, CID Train Show, Danville, IN

Nov 23, Sat 5PM, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

Dec 7, Sat, Div 8 Christmas Party, Corner Café, Lyndon, KY

Dec 28, Sat 5PM, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

AUGUST 2024 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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
July	NO CONTEST

The first, second, and third place winners for the 2023-2024 Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest year were announced at the Division 8 picnic on Saturday, July 20. Third place is Steve Lasher with 22 points for the year, skillfully transforming models into accurate prototypes. Second place is Bob Frankrone with 26 points for the year, a long-time active modeler on the local, regional and national levels. First place is Rick Maloney with 28 points for the year, returning to the contest with a very strong showing.

During this contest year we had 18 modelers participate with 60 total entries, returning to the pre-pandemic levels of 17 modelers and 58 entries back in the 2018-2019 contest year, but with a massive increase from 296 votes cast then to 429 votes cast now. Our winners receive contest certificates and Scale Reproductions gift cards awarded as prizes. Congratulations!

Final standings for the 2023-2024 contest year are as follows: Rick Maloney with 28, Bob Frankrone with 26, Steve Lasher with 22, Rick Geerts with 16, Mark Norman and Russ Weis with 5 each, John Helton, Cecil Stewart, and Eric Waggoner with 4 each, Ed Brennan and Bob Kuchler with 3 each, Kevin Jones and Fred Soward with 2 each, and Bruce DeMaeyer, Darcy Elliott, Ron Ellison, Al Goodman, and Randall Griggs with 1 each.

The August Contest is **MOW EQUIPMENT**

We will send out a reminder but some of the Contest timeline dates for August are listed in column 2 of this page.



AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION

The August Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday August 17** 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. George Bogatiuk III is presenting "Blunami Sound Decoders - Why You Should Consider Using Them."

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

Contest timeline dates for August:

- August 3rd - First day to submit entries
- August 10th - Last day to submit entries
- August 15th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- August 15th & 16th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 16th
- August 17th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- September 7th - First day to submit September contest entries

MODEL PHOTOS & PROTOTYPE PHOTOS (2 separate contests)

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

To enter the August Contest, use the **NEW Contest Entry Form** on the Division 8 website here → [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*.

MEMBER WELFARE and MEMBERSHIP REPORTs on the next page.

MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

By Mike Berry, Member Welfare Chairman

This month we had three members under the weather with two of them hospitalized for a period of time -- Don Fowler and Mark Hedge, both home recuperating; and Kevin Jones with an outpatient procedure.

The Member Welfare Fund provides Division 8 members and their immediate families with get well cards for an illness and sympathy cards and donations on behalf of Division 8 for the death of a relative as defined by the member welfare procedures. It is nice when you are sick or recovering from a hospital stay to hear from friends.

Donations for fiscal YTD (beginning July 1, 2024): Anonymous-\$100; Charlie Keeling family-\$200.

As always, if you hear of any member (or spouse) in the hospital or with a death in the family, let someone on the Member Welfare committee or the Board know.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 126 active members. We had five renewals (Ron Ellison, Greg Gephart, George Ronn, Edward Ryan, Robert Toler). We also had two expirations (Natalie and Tyler McKee).

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

To escape the Ohio Valley heat, we took a week-long trip to Minnesota last month, visiting relatives, friends, and model railroaders while we were there. Many thanks go out to Thomas Gasior MMR® in the Twin Cities Division of the Thousand Lakes Region for arranging the layout visits and operating session visit. Most everyone knows of his Splitrock Mining Company model railroad. It was a real treat to see it in person and to see some of the ingenious things he's implemented. <https://www.minn-rail.org/layouts/srmc.html>

Dan Dossa's Minnesota Commercial layout is an interesting exercise in compressing two prototype industrial areas into a single space the size of a spare bedroom. I'd heard a lot about it, but seeing it in person really made the difference. Again, a lot of ingenious things going on there. You may see a few of those ingenious things from both layouts implemented on the Santa Cruz & Felton someday.

Lastly, there was the operating session on Dave Vos' Cumberland Northern Railway. The crew was a little light the night I visited, but I'm pretty sure all the trains on the order board completed their runs. Only one train with a timetable – the doodlebug. I ran that first, and it gave me a good look at the railroad. The next train was way more complicated and more than once I had to get out of the way of several through freights in one of the towns I was working. The railroad ran smoothly while I was there, with only a single minor throttle hiccup. The best part of working on Dave's model railroad was the crew. I felt like a member of the group almost immediately. Everyone was willing to fully answer any questions I had about the operations and it was a totally friendly, non-competitive atmosphere in the train room. I'd go back and run with any of those guys any day, anywhere. Yet another really enjoyable model railroading experience with a group of total strangers who became friends very quickly. (*Editor's note: layout photos from Fred's trip begin on page 8 of this issue.*)

SILVER SPIKE 2024

It's that time again for Silver Spike Award nominations, which open August 7, and close on August 19th. The Silver Spike is awarded to a qualifying member in recognition of exemplary service to the NMRA, MCR, Division 8. See this month's "From the Superintendent's Desk" on the first page of this issue for nomination information and qualifications.

DIVISION 8 PICNIC 2024

Unless noted otherwise, photos are by Fred Soward

Forty-Three Division 8 members and their families gathered at the Kentucky Railway Museum in New Haven, KY on July 20, 2024.



Left:

The first order of the day was finding your box lunch that was ordered from McAllister's Deli.

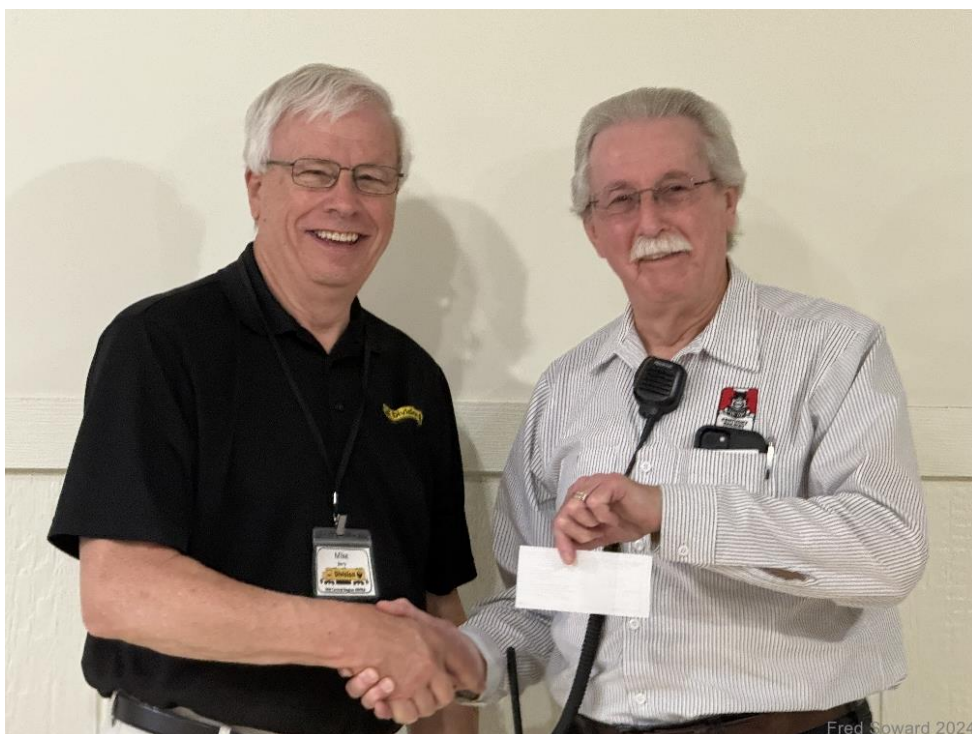


Above:

"Dig in!"

Lunch was followed by awards and presentations.

Below: Division 8 Treasurer Mike Berry presented Greg Matthews MMR® (right), Kentucky Railway Museum, with a \$500 donation from the Division to the Museum.



Fred Soward 2024

(continued on next page)

PICNIC (continued from page 4)

Charlie Keeling Model Contest Chairman, Barry Christensen, presented the winners of the 2023/2024 Contest with their awards.



Above: Contest chairman Barry Christensen, presented Rick Maloney with his First Place Certificate along with a \$100 gift card for Scale Reproductions Hobby Shop. In addition to the first place winner, second place received a \$75 gift card, and Third Place a \$50 gift card.

Below: The 2024 winners from left to right: Steve Lasher, Third Place; Rick Maloney, First Place; Bob Frankrone, Second Place; Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman.



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PICNIC (continued from page 5)

After the awards, we divided up into groups for a guided tour of the Barn (shop building).

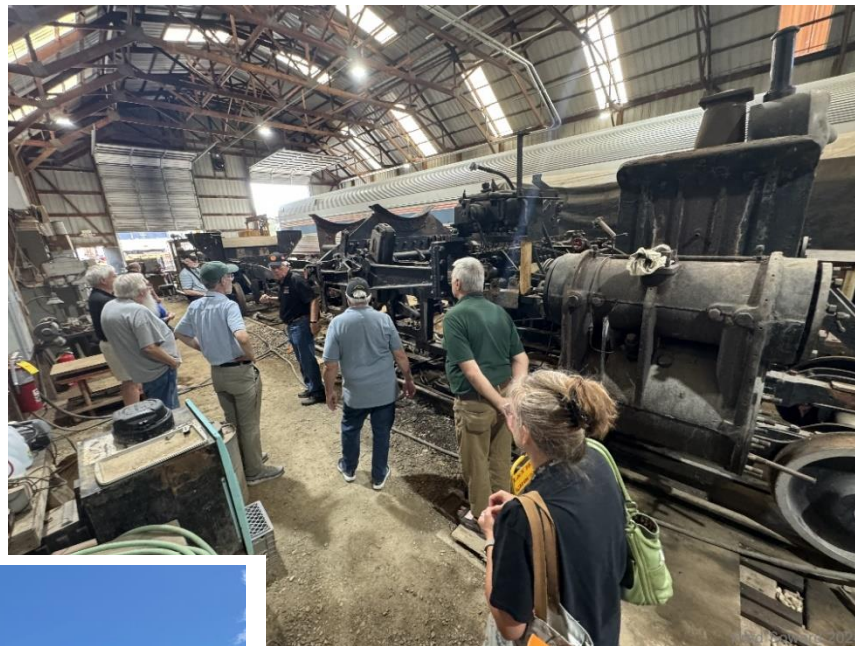


Left:
Museum volunteer (left), Bill
Huston, led the tour in the Barn
Building.

Members had an opportunity to
go inside some of the equipment
on display.

(photo by Bob Dawson)

Right:
During the tour, Division 8 members
were given an update on the Museum's
L&N Steam Locomotive #152
restoration project.



Left:
At 2 PM we boarded the train for a trip to
Boston KY and return.

(Photo by Bob Dawson)

(continued on next page)

PICNIC (continued from page 6)

Right:

We had our own coach for the trip.



Above: Photo by Barbara Soward



Above: Photo by Barbara Soward

Right:

Carl Hulsewede checks out the displays in the museum inside the depot.

Photo by Fred Soward



Above: Photo by Bob Dawson



MODEL RAILROADING IN THE THOUSAND LAKES STATE

By Fred Soward MMR®, photos by the author

Fred and Barbara Soward took a trip to Minnesota in July to visit friends and relatives. While there Fred had the opportunity to visit some layouts of members of the Twin Cities Division of the Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA.

Dan Dossa's HO scale Minnesota Commercial

Left:

Dan Dossa standing in front of his HO scale Minnesota Commercial layout.

Right:

Dan uses Digitrax as his DCC system. A ProtoThrottle is also available for crews to use. All structures are either exact replicas or selectively compressed from the prototype. The small brick yard office on the right side of this photo has a foam core center covered with photographs made from the actual yard office in Minneapolis. Now that the crew has arrived and parked their bright red



locomotive to the left of the yard office, they can check the yard office "fax machine" in the yellow lock box on the fascia, between the throttles, for additional train order or instructions.

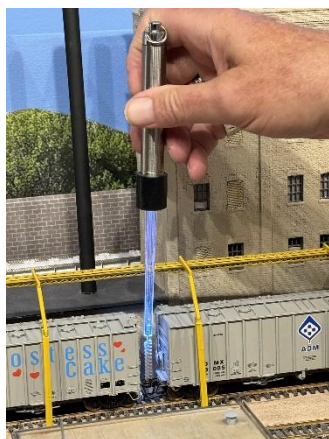


Left:

One of the many prototype-inspired scenes on Dan's layout.

Below:

Another prototype-inspired scene, a grade crossing on Dan Dossa's Minnesota Commercial layout



Left:

Dan demonstrates using a modified uncoupling tool made from a Micro-Mark UncoupleLITE fitted with a small dental brush.

(continued on the next page)



MODEL RAILROADING IN THE THOUSAND LAKES STATE *(continued from page 8)*

Thomas Gasior's MMR® HO scale Splitrock Mining Company layout



Left:

Thomas is pointing out the Boulder Creek defect detector.



Right:

A well-worn gondola sits in the yard on Thomas Gasior's MMR® HO scale Splitrock Mining Company layout.

Detail Left:

The colored pins in the ore cars designate the grade of iron ore. That comes into play when the iron ore is loaded onto the ore boats.



Above: One of several highly detailed remote areas on the Splitrock Mining Company layout. Using a wide variety of materials and textures help with the realism. The focus was on the caboose, but those are loons just chilling in the pond in the foreground.

Right: Another highly detailed area is on the other side of the layout. What really makes this area work is the diversity of foliage. It's not just one single type of tree or bush used in this space. *(continued on the next page)*



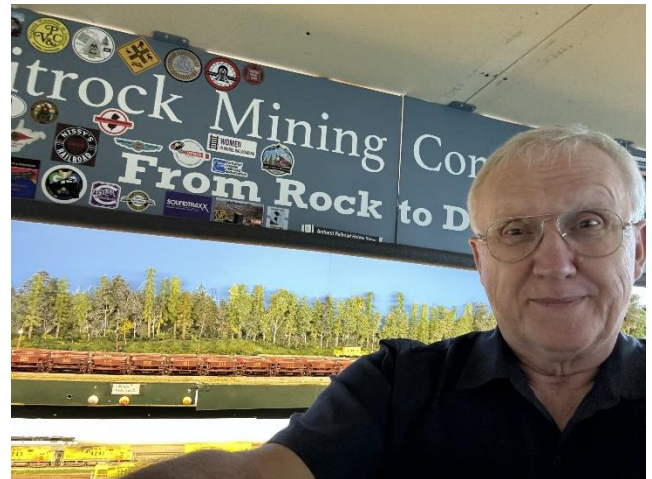
MODEL RAILROADING IN THE THOUSAND LAKES STATE *(continued from page 9)*

More of Thomas Gasior's MMR® HO scale Splitrock Mining Company layout



Left:

A pair of well-used Alcos waiting in the yard for their next job.



Right:

Division 8 Assistant Superintendent Fred Soward MMR® in front of Vermillion Yard on Thomas Gasior's MMR® HO scale Splitrock Mining Company layout.



Left:

Looks like the engineer and conductor may be having a difference of opinion about how to get their work done as they stand next to their train in Vermillion Yard.

Right: Division 8 Assistant Superintendent Fred Soward MMR® said that he sees signs just like this on the north side of Two Harbors, MN, when he travels to visit his daughter's family in northern Minnesota. Not only are the miles correct on the highway sign, the Fire Danger level on the Smokey Bear sign is changed to reflect the actual Fire Danger level in the Two Harbors area before operating sessions on Thomas Gasior's MMR® HO scale Splitrock Mining Company layout.



(continued on the next page)

MODEL RAILROADING IN THE THOUSAND LAKES STATE *(continued from page 10)*

Dave Vos' HO scale Cumberland Northern Layout



Left:

Dave Vos. Like most of us, Dave's HO scale Cumberland Northern Layout has far too many pieces of rolling stock to fit on the layout. Dave's solution is to store them off the layout in these salvaged shallow-drawer file cabinets under West Staging.



Left: There's a wide variety of track and switch throws on the Cumberland Northern Layout. In this photo, you can see some very unique "popsicle stick"

ground throws that work surprisingly well! The track here is old brass rail on Tru-Scale profile roadbed, but in various places on the layout you'll also find handlaid code 70 track on fiber ties, Atlas flextrack, and Piko turnouts. And they all work flawlessly.



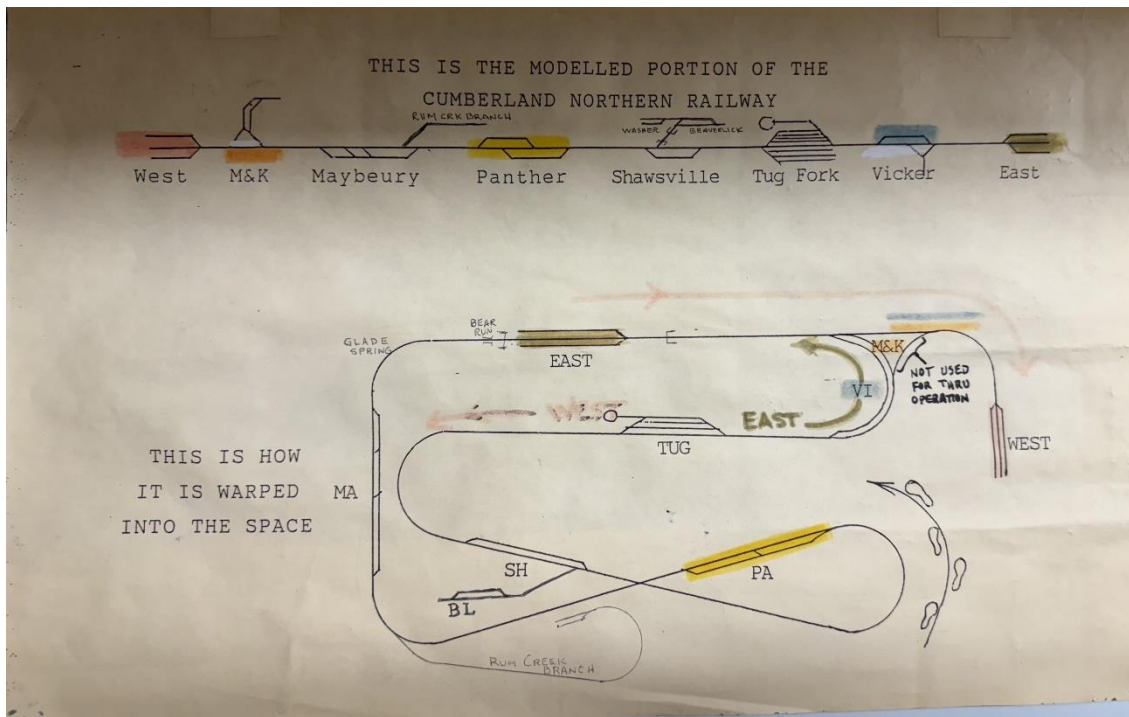
Left:

It's the mid-1950's on the Cumberland Northern Layout.

(continued on the next page)

MODEL RAILROADING IN THE THOUSAND LAKES STATE (continued from page 11)

Dave Vos' HO scale Cumberland Northern Layout



Above: This is the track diagram for Dave's Cumberland Northern Layout. Coming out of West Staging, a train exits straight through the M&K Wye and runs across the entire layout, to come back to M&K Wye where the station name is then "Vicker." It then uses the Vicker Wye (aka the M&K Wye) to turn the train and go back westbound across the layout, turns at the M&K Wye, and backs into West Staging.



Left:

Dave said he built this Red Ball Refrigerator car kit in 1956. With upgraded trucks and couplers, it's still working in active revenue service on the Cumberland Northern Layout.

(continued on the next page)

MODEL RAILROADING IN THE THOUSAND LAKES STATE *(continued from page 12)*

Dave Vos' HO scale Cumberland Northern Layout



Left:
One of the many custom-painted and lettered boxcars on Dave Vos' HO scale Cumberland Northern Layout.



PIKE SHOW CASE

Left:

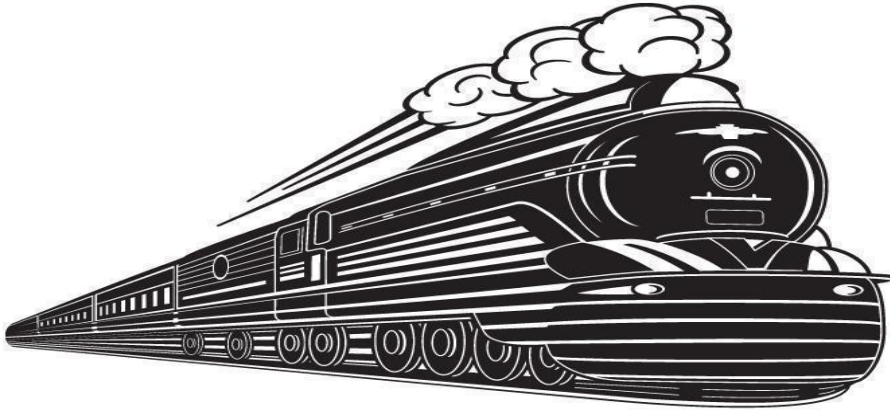
Has the NMRA Headquarters moved? Here is the NMRA building in the city of Shark Harbor.

(Shark Harbor is a city on Rick Maloney's N Scale Model Railroad.)

Photo by Rick Maloney

TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 34TH YEAR



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2024 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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

ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/November2024TrainShowTickets>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE





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YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED

Photos of your layout or prototype photos are needed for the Pie Card. Many of you post on Facebook, but by sending photos to the Pie Card, you can share them with many of our members who are not on Facebook.

Attach your photo to an email, and send to the Pie Card Editor at:
dawsobl@aol.com

R & J DETAILS

HO Scale

Model Railroad Detail Parts

Rick Geerts - Owner

Shop the Online Store

[R & J Details](#)

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](#)

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To contact a Division 8 board member or committee director call or text (502) 653-5371 and tell us your needs. We'll get back to you. To contact Division 8 or any board member or committee director by email use - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

THE PIE CARD

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Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month. Photos are preferred to be a JPEG format. Documents should be submitted as a Word or similar format. No PDF's please.

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Also **CLICK** or **CALL** if you have any questions. We'll get back to you right away.

The Superintendent's Article in this edition of The Pie Card reminded you that fall and winter are coming. The days are getting shorter. Time to think about our 2024/2025 fall and winter collection. A sweatshirt, fleece jacket or pullover is perfect for those cooler days coming up. And don't forget to tell Santa if you'd like to find something from Division 8 under the tree. Place an order or have Santa contact us!