
The Pie Card

Volume 58, July 2024, Number 7



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

It's July 2024 and that means the Division 8 Annual Summer Picnic Saturday July 20, 2024.

This year, a day of activities including a box lunch, Model Contest awards, shop tour, round trip train ride to Boston, and fellowship at the Kentucky

Railroad Museum in New Haven, Kentucky. All that and more for only \$10.00 per person. Children and grandchildren 14 or older are \$5.00 and FREE under 14 years of age.

Here's the day's schedule

- 11:00 Gather at Kentucky Railway Museum
- 11:30 Lunch at Kentucky Railway Museum Party Room
- 12:15 Annual Modeling Contest Awards Presentation
- 12:30 Tours in Small Groups (Shop, Yard, & Museum)
- 2:00 Train Ride to Boston & Return
- 3:30 Event Concludes with free time until the KRM closes at 4:30

On arrival at the KRM, look for our 2 greeters, Russ Weis and Rick Maloney, who will guide you to the lunch venue. We'd like to have lunch at the picnic table but it is July in Kentucky so we will be inside an air-conditioned room.

With the location of the Picnic south of Louisville, it's a great opportunity for those Division 8 members living in the south state to come and join us and renew old friendships and make new ones. And at a very reasonable price. For an adult, if you were to do this on your own, the day would cost you \$32.40 per person and would not include a Shop, Yard, and Museum tour. The tour is special for us.

The KRM opens at 11:00 AM but if you arrive early, you can take a look around the yard and see what might be new since you last visited.

YOU CAN BUY YOUR TICKET HERE → [Click to Buy](#)

The 2023/2024 Charlie Keeling Model Contest has come to a close. You can read the up-to-date points standing later in this edition of *The Pie Card*. And the winners will be formally announced at the Picnic and the gift certificates, \$100, \$75 and \$50 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively will be presented. The new 2024/2025 contest begins in August with Maintenance of Way Vehicles.

We've made the Contest very easy to enter. Go here for all the details on the Charlie Keeling Monthly Model Contest → [Monthly Model Contest](#) You can view the Contest categories, view photos of the current, past months of the current contest year, previous years photos, and fill out the entry form to enter the contest. Of course it is a "contest". But the spirit of the Charlie Keeling Monthly Model Contest is about sharing Model Railroading with your fellow members and the public. And it's your chance to participate.

June 30th is the end of our fiscal year. It's a good time to think about making a donation to the Member Welfare Fund. We had 6 members and member spouses on the Member Welfare list announced at our June meeting. Find out how to donate later in this and every edition of *The Pie Card*.

We hope to see you at the Picnic on Saturday July 20th in New Haven.

[MAP LINK to Kentucky Railway Museum](#)

TIME TABLE

Jul 20, Sat, Div 8 Picnic, Kentucky Railway Museum, New Haven, KY. Gather at 11:30 AM.

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 10AM, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

MAY 2024 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

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 2023-2024 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest year with open loads as the subject. Three models were entered, with third place going to John Helton for his "To be retired from active duty." Second place went to Steve Lasher for his "Subway car load." First place went to Bob Frankrone for his "Load of culvert pipes." Congratulations to each modeler!

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 below are some of the 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> .

(continued to column 2)



NO MEETING IN JULY-DIVISION 8 PICNIC

Our next meeting will be 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.

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

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 REPORT

By Mike Berry, Member Welfare Chairman

This month was pretty busy for Member Welfare. We had 6 people hospitalized: Gerald Hensel's wife Gigi, Rick Tipton, Barry Christensen, Ed and Joann Brennan, Kathy Kuchler, and Rick Geerts. Thankfully all are home and recuperating. 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.
Mike Berry

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 128 active members. We had seven renewals (John & Lisa Helton, Tom Hollis, Lee Kirchhoff, Joseph Martin, Chris Wiles, Mike Wingfield) We also had one expired (Dr. Mike Shane).

**FIRST PLACE**

Left:

Bob Frankone's HO "LOAD OF CULVERT PIPES"

Bob started with an undecorated Tyco flatcar, changed out the horn hook couplers with Kadee's, replaced a missing brake wheel, painted the car and trucks, and added decals. The load was made from 60" scale pipe that he painted silver. He added blocking, straps, and tie downs.

SECOND PLACE

Right:

Steve Lasher's HO "SUBWAY CAR LOAD"

Steve began with a Roco heavy duty flatcar. He weathered it with chalks and washes, and finished the deck with paint and thin washes. The separations between the planks were enhanced with Tamiya Panel Line Accent Color. He touched up the subway car to represent a new car, and secured it to the flat car with tie down chains.

**THIRD PLACE**

Above: John Helton's HO "TO BE RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY"

Here we have a couple of 1941 Chevrolet flight line fuel tankers. Having served through WWII and the Korean War, they were picked up by the Santa Fe at San Pedro and are headed back East for assessment.

John said the flatcar and trucks were extensively detailed and modified. Nothing came out of the box looking like the finished model.

TRAINS AT THE TREE 2024

Photos by Fred Soward

The Southern Indiana Railroad set up their modular layout at the Greentree Mall in Clarksville, IN over the Father's Day Weekend 14-16 June, 2024. Division 8 and K&I Model Railroad Club members assisted with running trains and being "Model Railroad Evangelists." What does a "Model Railroad Evangelist" do? They meet and greet spectators and introduce them to the hobby.



Left:

The coordinator for the event was Darcy Elliott.



Right:

Some of the families who dropped by to see the trains.



Left:

"Model Railroad Evangelist" Don Fowler explaining what the Digitrax controller is and how it is used.



Right:

John Helton helping with running trains.

JUNE MEETING REPORT

Photos by Barbara Soward

The June 2024 Division 8 membership meeting was held on Saturday June 15. It was a hybrid meeting with participants attending in person at the library, and remotely using the Zoom conference platform. Attendance was 21, with 15 attending in person (including one visitor, the presenter), and 6 attending virtually on Zoom.



Left:

Rick Maloney assumed his duties of Division 8 Clerk at the June Membership meeting.



Right:

Ron Ellison presented Bob Dawson (right) with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of having served the Division over the years in elective offices of Trustee and Clerk.



Left:

The always versatile Fred Soward wore many hats (as seen at far left) at the June Meeting. Both Mike Berry and Barry Christensen were absent, and Fred was called upon to give their reports. For Mike, Fred gave the Treasurer's, Member Welfare, and Librarian's reports, as well as wearing his "regular hat" as Zoom Meeting Producer.

Above:

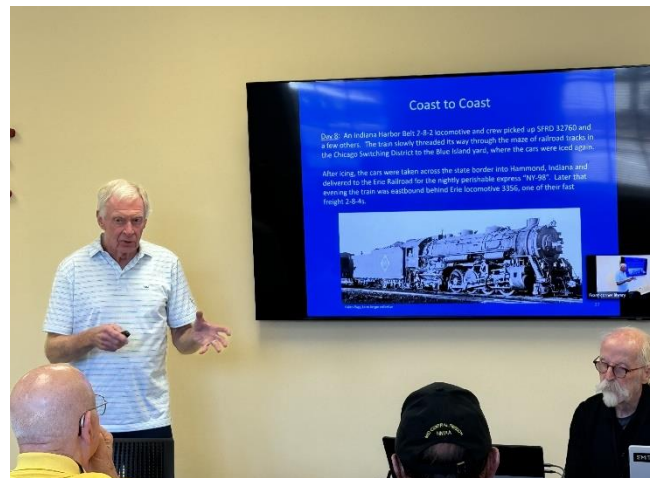
Wearing the "Contest Hat," Fred gave the Charlie Keeling Model contest report for Contest Chairman Barry Christensen.

Right:

Bruce McKeown was the presenter at the June Meeting.
His program was:

"Coast to Coast, The Journey of a Carload of Oranges from California to New York City aboard a Santa Fe Refrigerator Car in 1947"

(continued on page 6)



JUNE MEETING REPORT *(continued from page 5)***SHOW AND TELL DISPLAY TABLE***Photos by Fred Soward*

Two members displayed items on the Show and Tell Table at the meeting. Randy Griggs (above left) showed S-Scale parts for a SW 1500 that he 3D printed, along with a completed locomotive. Fred Soward exhibited an HO Class One Model Works Wheel Rack for a 50-foot flatcar with assorted wheel sets (above right).

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT*By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent*

Last month, Barbara & I spent a few days in South Carolina and Florida. The primary motivation for the trip was to spend some time with Barbara's 90-year-old aunt Joyce this summer. I knew Al Sohl MMR® was holding one of his semi-annual BIG operating sessions on his On30 Western Bay Railroad (<https://westernbayrailroad.org/>) in early June and that's a 30-minute drive south from Joyce's home. With that bit of information, I reached out to Don Irace (about 20 minutes north of Joyce's home) to see if it would be possible to setup an operating session on his HO scale Providence & Worcester while we were there. Success on all counts!

Take a look at those two layouts and at first glance you'll probably think they appear totally different. However, with a more detailed look, you'll see they're actually very similar. One is a double-deck, all diesel, modern, primarily industrial switching, northeast US region, single-track mainline, with a remote dispatcher. The other is a two-level (not a true double-deck), single mainline, steam and gasoline rail bus, depression-era, small town switching, Rocky Mountain region, single-track mainline, with a local dispatcher. The scenery on one is spectacular becuz of the setting being in the Rocky Mountains while the other has spectacular scenery becuz of the detail in the industrial areas. One layout had three people in the room while the other had twelve. One layout has lots of hidden staging while there's no staging on the other layout. Both are in dedicated spaces for the layouts with one in a detached storage shed and the other in an addition to the home. One was strictly a timetable & train order operation while the other was definitely not.

Both layouts operated nearly flawlessly. Both layout owners were happy to have the crews running trains and there was great camaraderie amongst the crew members. And that is what really matters – the railroads ran nearly flawlessly, and the crews came together to make it all happen. At the end of a trip to operate on the Pennsylvania Southern, I always thank Bob Weinheimer MMR® for allowing us to visit and operate on the layout. Bob then tells me, "Thanks for making the layout come to life!" I've come to believe that's actually the key to enjoying and getting the most out of model railroading – interacting with others who have that same level of interest while we bring bits of metal, plastic, wood, and plaster together to recreate a miniature world.

PHOTOS FROM THE 2024 MID CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION "THE NORTH COAST LIMITED"

Photos and captions by Fred Soward MMR® unless indicated otherwise



Left:

Division 8 member Rick Geerts was doing a brisk business at his R&J Details booth throughout the convention.



Right:

Division 8 member Bob Frankrone presented several clinics during the Mid Central Region's 2024 "The North Coast Limited" convention.



Left:

Fred Soward MMR®, Sam Swanson MMR®, Bob Weinheimer MMR® and Steve Zapytowski MMR® led the "Weathering with Acrylics" Modeling With the Masters (MWTM®) session. The photo shows Fred, Bob, and Steve working with students.

Photo by Barbara Soward

Right:

Division 8 member Fred Soward MMR® as the NMRA Central District Director and Bob Weinheimer MMR® as the Region Advisory Council Director presented "What's New At National." The presentation was all about sharing the status of recent past, present, and future NMRA initiatives AND finding out what was on the minds of NMRA members attending the convention.

Photo by Barbara Soward

(continued on next page)



"THE NORTH COAST LIMITED" (continued from page 7)



Left:

There were several layouts operating at the Mid Central Region's 2024 "The North Coast Limited" convention facility, including N scale T-TRAK, HO scale T-TRAK, and O scale display. This is the HO scale HAVOC layout from Division 7, MCR.



Right

This interesting "open load" was found on Ron Morgan's modern era HO scale Union Pacific layout during the Mid Central Region's 2024 "The North Coast Limited" convention layout tours. Core of the load is an old toilet paper roll holder with a bunch of details and silver paint.



Left:

Dave Lawler's HO scale highly detailed layout depicting Ontario, Canada, was on tour during the Mid Central Region's 2024 "The North Coast Limited" convention.

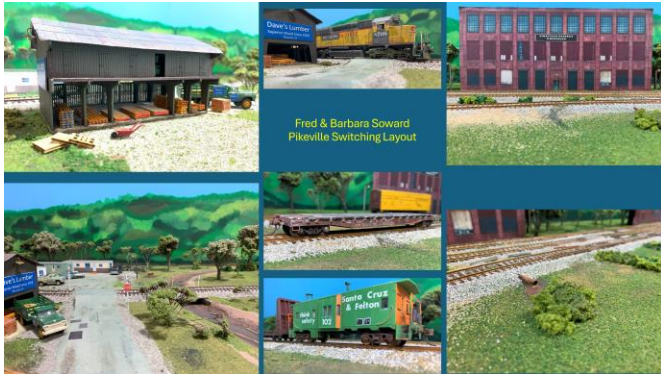


Right:

Tom McInerney's 1920's era HO scale layout, filled with craftsman structures and geared locomotives, was on tour during the Mid Central Region's 2024 "The North Coast Limited" convention.

YOUR LAYOUT PHOTOS SHOULD BE ON THE WEBSITE*Division 8 Media Committee*

As you know, the Media Committee is building a new Division 8 website. We've already asked members to submit photos of their layouts. If you've already replied and sent in your photos, THANK YOU. If you haven't, there is still time. But time is running out! It is time to take action. No layout is too big or too small to go on our website. And it doesn't matter what stage of construction you're in. But you have to have at least 1 piece of track laid. That's the only requirement. It's about sharing what you're working on. It's not about who has the best layout. Once the new website goes live, each member who submits photos will have a display that looks like this one ☐ [Pikeville Switching Layout](#)



Maybe you don't remember if you've submitted photos. Or maybe you want to submit new photos. Or maybe you have a question. Send us an email with your questions or send us some photos – division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com We'll answer your questions or acknowledge your submission. But know YOUR LAYOUT is needed and wanted on our website. And it should be there.

And when you make improvements, send in new photos. Because we all know, a layout is never finished until it's taken down.

JULY 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: None. We are now in the July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 fiscal year. Who is going to get things started?

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 to our PO Box. Please don't send checks to members' homes. That's not safe.

While a check may seem convenient for you, online payment saves us a trip to the post office and the bank. We are now almost 25 years into the 21st Century. After sending cash through the mail, checks are the next least secure payment method. So please help us save our time and pay online.

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

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Photo by Fred Soward

Right: At a recent operating session on Russ Weis' layout, Ron Ellison presented Steve Lasher with his first place certificates for the April and May Charlie Keeling Model Contests.

In case you have forgotten, the April contest was "passenger cars", and the May contest was "caboosees."



OPERATING IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Photos and Captions by Fred Soward MMR®

In June Fred and Barbara Soward took a trip to Florida to visit Barbara's aunt. While there, Fred was able to attend a couple of operating Sessions. First, we will look at operating on Al Soh's On30 Western Bay Railroad in Port St Lucie, FL.



Left:

Fred Soward carefully watches as his train picks its way backward through a series of turnouts leading into the industries next to him.

Photo by Al Sohl MMR®



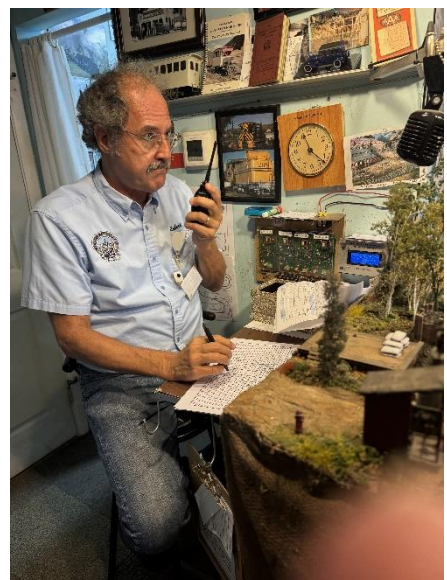
Right:

Just like Division 8, people in the Sunshine Region are receiving Achievement Program awards. Robert Raymond (center) received his Chief Dispatcher award before the operating session started and then he turned around and became the dispatcher for the day's activities.



Left:

Al's layout is a single track mainline on two levels. Here the upper line crosses over the lower line (at the bottom of the gorge).



Right:

Robert Raymond doing his thing as Dispatcher on the Western Bay Railroad. Although not prototypical, the crew uses FRS (Family Radio System) walkie-talkie radios to communicate between the dispatcher, station agents, and train crews.

(continued on page 11)

OPERATING IN THE SUNSHINE STATE (continued from page 10)

Operating on Don Irace's HO scale Providence & Worcester model railroad in Sebastian, FL.



Left:

Jeff Hanke is getting ready to move his assigned train out of the yard while Don Irace checks track occupancy status on the dispatcher panel.



Right:

One of the many detailed facilities on the Providence & Worcester.



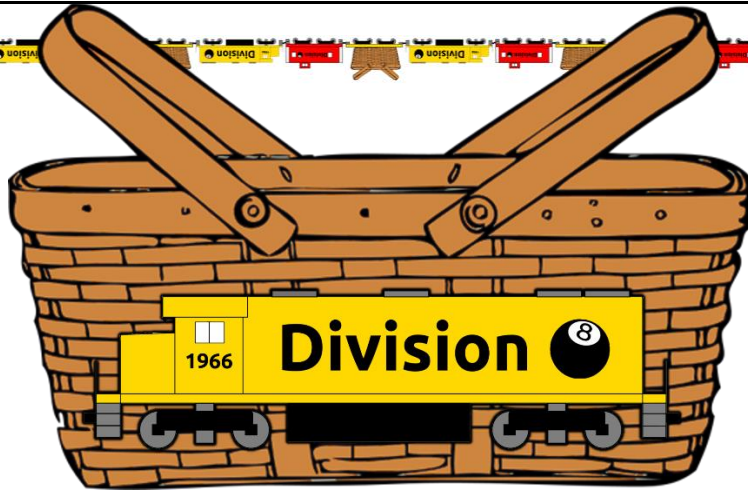
Left:

Fred Soward is focused on making sure all goes well during switching operations at the Motiva industry. Fred reports that the A/C unit in front of him kept him cool in Don's shed while it was crazee hot outside in the Florida sun.

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Right:

Fred's train order/switchlist for the first train he ran on the Providence & Worcester.



DIVISION 8 PICNIC

SATURDAY JULY 20, 2024

A DAY AT THE
KENTUCKY RAILWAY MUSEUM
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[MAP LINK to Kentucky Railway Museum](#)

ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THE MODEL CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED

Lunch and a Shop Tour will be provided

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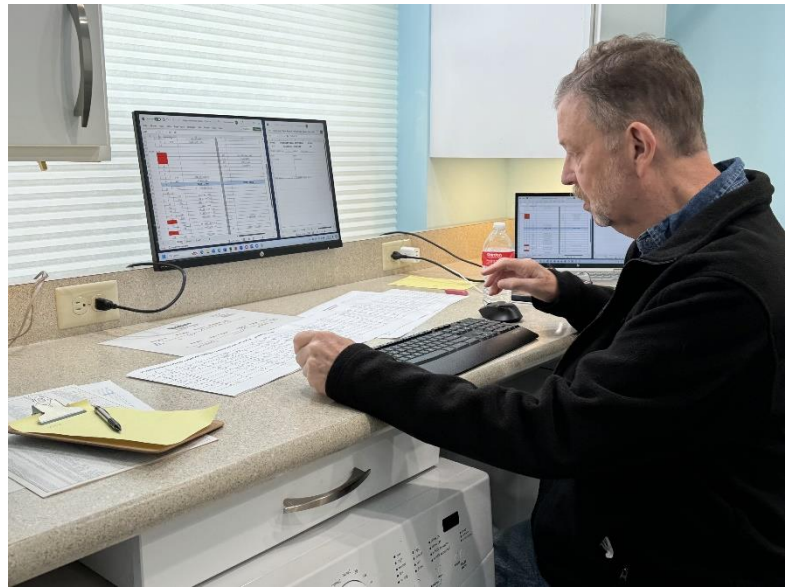
Photos by Fred Soward MMR®

In May Division 8 members Bob Dawson, Mark Norman MMR®, Fred Soward MMR®, and Rob Toler went to West Virginia to operate on Bob Weinheimer's MMR® Pennsylvania Southern. Note that Bob Dawson and Rob Toler were outnumbered by the Master Model Railroaders® in the room.



Left:

Conductor, Bob Dawson (right) and Engineer Rob Toler (left) check their train order in preparation for leaving South Staging.



Right:

Mark Norman was the Dispatcher for the day.

TRACKSIDE WITH RON ELLISON

Right:

CSX 3447 GE ET44AH northbound toward Cincinnati between Crestwood & Buckner approaching the Defect Detector at milepost 21 on a sunny day in May this year.





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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

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THE PIE CARD

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We're into July so it's time to start thinking about your fall wardrobe. A sweatshirt, fleece jacket or pullover is perfect for those cooler days coming up. Don't let our fall collection sell out before you order yours. Place an order today!