The Pie Card



Volume 58, June 2024, Number 6

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison
Did you know Division 8 has a librarian? And does that mean we have a library? Well, yes it does.
Mike Berry is our librarian. It is not a big library, but it has some good stuff in it.

And we want to let you know that we're upgrading an important library item – our Fast Tracks Assembly Fixtures. Currently they are Code 100. Most of us are using Code 83 track today, so it only behooves us to have Code 83 fixtures. You can see the complete list of Fast Tracks fixtures, jigs, tools and reference materials here – Division 8 Lending Library

TIME TABLE

Jun 8, Sat 2 PM, Virtual Bull Session.

Jun 14-16, Trains at the Tree (details on Page 13) **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.

But maybe we are getting ahead of ourselves here. You may say, what's Fast Tracks? Is it gonna make my trains run faster? Fast Tracks Hobbyworks is a Canadian company that supplies track building tools and model building supplies. What Division 8 has in their library involves building hand laid turnouts. Many say these turnouts operate better and conduct electricity better than readymade turnouts. Many model railroaders use readymade flex track but, build their own turnouts because they are more dependable and can be about the same price or cheaper than readymade turnouts – especially if you need a bunch. Like everything else, the more you need, the less it is going to cost per unit.

It may take several hours to build your first turnout. But once you learn how, you can knock these out pretty quickly. And if you need help, Division 8 just happens to have 7 active Master Model Railroaders® that can help you. All you need to do is ask for help. Send an email to Division 8 and we will put you in touch with that help.

You can learn more about Fast Tracks Hobbyworks here – https://handlaidtrack.com

To learn about navigating their website to find anything is just a few clicks, watch the video here – <u>Fast Tracks Website</u> <u>Filters</u> And you can access their knowledge base here – <u>Fast Tracks Knowledgebase</u> All Fast Track tools and equipment conform to applicable NMRA Standards. The Fast Tracks YouTube channel is here <u>Fast Tracks Tools YouTube Channel</u>

But that's not all. The Division 8 Library also hosts a DVD collection which includes 11 Model Railroad Academy DVDs, Model Railroader Magazine archive copies on a DVD from 1934 to 2009, and 23 Kalmbach Dream Plan Build DVDs from that collection.

But wait; there's even more. If you still have a DVD player around, you may also have a VHS tape player. We have a box of unnamed model and prototype railroad VHS tapes. Librarian Mike Berry will be bringing these to our membership meetings in the future and members are welcome to take any VHS tapes home they wish. And even better, these are yours to keep and enjoy until the tape wears out!

You may remember back in 1996 when DVDs came out that we were told this was "the new medium for storage". But of course, most of us don't have DVD players anymore or if we do, it may be in "the basement," So, if you wish to borrow any DVDs from the Library, do so because soon, we will liquidate that asset because newer and easier to access media is available. At that time, our members will be offered these historical items first. We will let you know in advance when they will be offered at a Division 8 meeting in a few months.

While you let all that sink in, do not forget to click on the link later in this edition of The Pie Card and get your Picnic tickets. July 20^{th} will be here sooner than you think.

MAY 2024 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

JuneOpen loadsJulyNO CONTESTAugustMOW 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 four entries, modeling cabooses in various phases of their lives.

Honorable mention goes to Rick Geerts for his abandoned caboose. Third place goes to John Helton for his standard non-standard L&N acquired patched over caboose. Second place goes to Bob Frankrone for his abandoned & forgotten caboose. First place goes to Steve Lasher for his SP C-41 steel cupola caboose. Congratulations to our modelers for their creative cabeese modeling

The revised point totals are now: Rick Maloney with 28, Bob Frankrone with 22, Steve Lasher with 19, Rick Geerts with 16, Mark Norman and Russ Weis with 5 each, Cecil Stewart and Eric Waggoner with 4 each, Ed Brennan and Bob Kuchler with 3 each, John Helton, Kevin Jones and Fred Soward with 2 each, and Bruce DeMaeyer, Darcy Elliott, Ron Ellison, Al Goodman, and Randall Griggs with 1 each.

The June Contest is **OPEN LOADS**

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

- June 1st First day to submit entries
- June 8th Last day to submit entries
- June 13th Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- June 13th & 14th Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 14th
- June 15th Winners announced at the meeting 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- August 3rd First day to submit August contest entries *MOW EQUIPMENT*

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

Continued to column 2)



JUNE MEETING INFORMATION

The June Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday June 15** 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. Bruce McKeown is presenting "Coast to Coast, a journey of a carload of oranges from California to New York City aboard a Santa Fe Refrigerator Car in 1947."

CONTEST (Continued from column 1)

To enter the May Contest, use the **NEW Contest Entry Form** on the Division 8 website here → <u>Contest</u> 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
Another good month for the Division as pertains to
Member Welfare. We sent out no get well or
sympathy cards this month. Nice going -- two
months in a row! But, as always, if you hear of a
member in the hospital or with a death in the family
let someone know on the Member Welfare
Committee or one of the Division officers.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman
As of the last report received from the Mid Central
Region, we have 127 active members. There were
five new members: Ethan Davis, Duke Green, Scott
Griggs, Nikita Henry, and Brandon Vititoe. We had
seven renewals: David Burris, Darcy Elliott, Louis
Franconia, Rick Geerts, Scott Gray, Paul Johnson, and
Kenneth Pettit. We also had three whose memberships
expired: John & Lisa Helton, Chris Wiles.

MAY CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST (photos by the modelers)



FIRST PLACE

Left:

Steve Lasher's "SP C-41 STEEL CUPOLA CABOOSE."

The model is an O scale Precision Scale Company model. Steve changed out the stock trucks for Protocraft proto 48 trucks. He removed the tool box and scratch built a new battery box in its place. He scratch-built new "Ajax" power brake stands to replace the ratchet style brake wheels. Steve completed his model by modifying the ends to accept new Protocraft scale working knuckle couplers, painted and decaled the model, and added conductor and rear brakeman figures.

SECOND PLACE

Right:

Bob Frankrone's HO "ABANDONED AND FORGOTTEN CABOOSE."

Beginning with a Soo Line caboose, Bob applied the graffiti decals to the unweathered model, and spayed it with a flat clear coat. He then faded the caboose with repeated applications of a thinned acrylic white wash until he achieved the effect he was looking for. He completed the model by adding rust spots with oil paint and using pieces of packing foam as applicators. Finally, he painted the wheels and trucks.



THIRD PLACE

Left:

John Helton's HO "STANDARD NON-STANDARD L&N ACQUIRED PATCH OVER."

John began with an Atlas Clinchfield caboose and "patched over" it and added L&N decals. He then lightly weathered it.

MAY CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST-HONORABLE MENTION



Rick Geert's "ABANDONED CABOOSE." Left:

Rick built this HO Union Pacific caboose from a kit, then he added decals and weathered and rusted it with an assortment of powders and paints.

OPERATING SESSION ON CHRIS BROUGHTON'S N SCALE LAYOUT

By Bob Dawson, photos by Chris Broughton
In April, Chris Broughton hosted an operating session on his layout.



Left:

From left to right: Ron Ellison and Bob Dawson switching the industries at Carolville.



Eric Waggoner switching Vandelay Industries on Chris' "Inglenook" diorama.

Chris says that it is operated as a switching puzzle. The three sidings can accommodate 3, 3, and 5 cars respectively. Five cards are drawn, each representing one of the cars, and a train is the assembled in the order the cards are drawn. It's surprisingly entertaining and addictive.



MAY MEETING REPORT

By Bob Dawson, Division 8 Clerk



The May 2024 Division 8 membership meeting was held on Saturday May 11. It was a hybrid meeting with participants attending in person at the library, and remotely using the Zoom conference platform.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM and ended at 3:30 PM.

Superintendent Ron Ellison announced that this was Bob Dawson's last meeting serving as Clerk (*Photo at left by Barbara Soward*). Rick Maloney will be assuming the office at the June meeting.

Achievement Program Chairman Mark Norman presented Fred Soward with a merit award for "Master Builder Structures (Terry's Cycle Shop)." Photo on page 6. Member Welfare Chairman Mike Berry said he was glad to report that there

were again no hospitalizations or deaths to report.

Attendance was 28, with 22 attending in person (including one spouse, Ramona Johnson) and 6 attending virtually on Zoom. There were no visitors in person or on Zoom,

Right:

Before the meeting Tom Guenthner (left) and Cecil Stewart (right) advised David Metz (center) about a problem he was having with a locomotive. *Photo by Barbara Soward*



FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

Mini-Clinics. Or "mini-presentations" if the word clinic makes you think of a trip to visit a doctor. To me, "presentation" sounds like I'm presenting information, but the audience isn't interacting with the learning. No matter what we call it, I want y'all to be engaged in the learning and how better to do that than with a hands-on activity? Small, short, brief, hands-on sessions where a person learns a model railroad technique or skill. Not an hour-long PowerPoint slide deck, but an interactive, hands-on learning experience. Not quite, but almost like a hands-on back-to-basics session.

Did I say hands-on enough in the opening paragraph? Maybe. But keep in mind – I'm talking about something that will take 15 minutes at most. A task like creating a tree for your layout shouldn't take hours of explanation followed by hours of creation. Well, maybe it will, if you're creating highly detailed redwood trees that will be in the foreground. But most layout trees, especially filler trees that look "good enough," can be created in less than 15 minutes.

What about static grass? It's going to take a bunch-o-time to apply all the static grass on our layout. I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about learning a basic skill. Can you do that in 15 minutes or less? Absolutely!

Hands-on is what model railroading is all about. So, why don't we do more of that type of learning during our Division 8 meetings? Why don't we offer that type of learning experience during our Division 8 Train Show & Sale events? We could. But we'd have to be bold enough to make it happen. And we'd have to figure out ways to make it engaging and not overwhelming for everyone.

Early in May, I attended the Midwest Region Convention in South Bend, Indiana. I was asked to attend becuz of my role as the Central District Director of the NMRA. So, I drove the 4½ hours up there, fully expecting yet another series of PowerPoint slide shows where I could catch up on my sleep from my trip to attend the Pacific Coast Region convention on the west coast the week prior. Surprise!!! The Celebration Room (contest room) was filled with hands-on mini-clinics! What was happening there (building trees, applying static grass, weathering rocks and scenery, installing fiber optics in model vehicles, driving a train simulator on gaming consoles, and more) should be happening all across the NMRA. I'm fired up and ready to make it happen. Are YOU up to the challenge? (Photos from both of these conventions are in this issue beginning on page 7)

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman



Left:

AP Chairman Mark Norman MMR®, presented Fred Soward MMR® with a merit award for "Master Builder Structures (Terry's Cycle Shop)" at the May meeting. *Photo by Barbara Soward*

SHOW AND TELL DISPLAY TABLE

Photos by Bob Dawson

Right: Bob Frankrone brought models for the Show and Tell Display table to the May meeting.

Bob asked attendees' opinions on which gondola model he should take to the Mid-Central Convention for the contest "People's Choice" category. Bob also brought the caboose model he entered in the May Contest.

The green gondola was the winner. Right: Fred Soward also brought a scratch built Milwaukee Transfer Caboose model for display.





JUNE 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-\$120; 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 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 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.

PACIFIC COAST REGION CONVENTION AND RAILFAN RESEARCH TRIP - April 22-29, 2024 - Milpitas (San Jose), California

Photos and captions by Fred Soward



Left:

Railfanning the day before the Pacific Coast Region Convention, Fred visited the Union Sugar Company sugar beet loader at Sargent, CA. If you've worked Fred's model railroad, you know this is located right past Gilroy (in the HVAC room). It's definitely seen better days & will be in a lot better shape when a model of the loader finds its way onto the layout.

Right:

Railfanning the day before the Pacific Coast Region Convention, Fred visited Roaring Camp & Big Trees Narrow Gauge Railroad in Felton, CA, where he found Heisler #2, "Tuolumne" resting outside the engine shed in preparation for future runs up Bear Mountain.





Left:

Bob Brown's On3 "Tuolomne Forks" layout was one of more than twenty San Francisco Bay Area layouts on tour for the Pacific Coast Region Convention. The layout is in the second floor of his home, right next to where Bob has edited the "Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette" for more than 50 years.

PACIFIC COAST (continued)



Left:

David Park's HO scale "Cumberland West" layout was one of the more than twenty San Francisco Bay Area layouts on tour for the Pacific Coast Region Convention. The very large layout in the basement of his home features the Western Maryland railroad. The backdrop is entirely hand-painted by a local artist. The command control system is a combination of Train Control Systems (TCS), Digitrax, NCE, and some Silicon Valley Wizardry! Russ Weis operated on this layout with Jim Petro almost ten years ago

Right:

One of the scratch built structures in the contest/celebration room at the Pacific Coast Region Convention. There were surprisingly few entries in the contest.





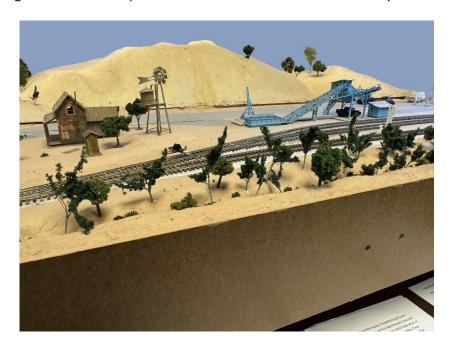
Left:

That's layout owner James Radkey seated and watching the progress of Dennis Drury's train in the helix on the HO scale "BNSF Pink Lady Sub." The name comes from the pink insulation foam sub-roadbed the layout runs on. Dennis is Russ' Arduino signal guy from Reno, NV. Dennis & Fred spent a long afternoon running trains on the layout during the Pacific Coast Region Convention.

PACIFIC COAST (continued)

Right:

Model Railroading with a family of four! Dad was "on break" when Fred was taking photos of the hands-on structure building clinic during the Pacific Coast Region Convention. The girls are ages 8 and 10. Fred spoke with the family over dinner that evening. The girls said they "loved" the trip to the Niles Canyon Railroad and looked forward to finishing up their structures so they could put them on the HO scale home layout. The family converted what had been a game room into a space for both an N scale and an HO scale layout.





Left:

Sargent, CA, on Dave Loveless' HO Scale Southern Pacific Coast Division Monterey Branch layout. The sugar beet loader is based on the prototype that Fred took pictures of earlier in the week. He says he needs two of them. During the operating session, Fred & Dave realized they'd both attended the local Watsonville High School at the

same time! But, with a total high school population of almost 4,000 when they were there, they really didn't remember ever seeing each other.

Right:

One small corner of Seth Neumann's HO Scale UP Niles Sub layout. Fred ran three locals on the layout during an all-afternoon operating session. Seth is the owner of "Model Railroad Control Systems," which is where several of the components for the signaling system on Russ Weis' layout were created.



MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION - May 2-4, 2024 - South Bend, Indiana

Photos and captions by Fred Soward



Left:

Bob Blake's Illinois Central Gulf SD40-2 was one of several super detailed models in the contest/celebration room during the 2024 Midwest Region Convention in South Bend, IN.

Right:

Rusty Dramm's super detailed Northern Pacific caboose with lighted interior on display in the contest/celebration room. This caboose also won "Best of Show – Caboose" at the May 2024 Mid Central Region Convention.





Left:

Building a tree was one of several free handson make-and-take mini clinics available during the convention.

Also available were sessions on static grass, installing fiber optic lights in vehicles, painting & weathering plaster cast rocks, modeling water features, and train simulators.

MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION (continued)



Left:

This is one of four long aisles of Bob Blakes's multi-level HO scale "Blackhawk Lines" layout where Fred worked as yard master during the first evening of the convention.



There were HO, N, and Z scale modular layouts on display during the 2024 Midwest Region Convention. The "Erie Switching Puzzle," owned by Tom Stathis in the green cap, was truly a puzzle for convention attendees.





Left:

Tom Zurek's 4,800 square foot HO scale freelanced layout was on the convention layout tour.

MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION (continued)



Left:

Dan Brewer's HO scale double-deck "Michiana Southern" layout was on the layout tour during the 2024 Midwest Region Convention in South Bend, IN. Darcy's Friday Night NAMAU Virtual Train Club was able to get a virtual/remote tour of the layout when Fred visited the layout. The clouds on the backdrop were made with Pan Pastel white and the old "Miles Hale" & John Lowrance cloud templates.

2024 KENTUCKY DERBY TRAIN

By Bob Dawson

There was only one Derby Train this year. CSX ran its Office Car Special from Lexington to Louisville. R. J. Corman Railroad did not run a train this year. The Amtrak Specials ended several years ago.



Left:

Derby morning 2024 at the site of the former "HK" tower in Anchorage, KY

2005 R J CORMAN DERBY TRAIN

Right:

I took this photo on Derby Day 2005 at "FX" on Strawberry Lane in South Louisville.

The R J. Corman train was arriving from Bardstown, KY with leased coaches and cars from their "My Old Kentucky Dinner Train."

FX signal bridge has been gone for years and the tracks have been reconfigured. I was standing on Louisville Ave. which is gone and this view is now blocked by a noise barrier.





DIVISION 8 PICNIC SATURDAY JULY 20, 2024

A DAY AT THE KENTUCKY RAILWAY MUSEUM New Haven, KY 40051

MAP LINK to Kentucky Railway Museum

ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THE MODEL CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED

Lunch and a Shop Tour will be provided PLUS roundtrip train ride to Boston

You'll have free time to wander and see the museum

Tickets are \$10.00 and must be purchased in Advance COME JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL DIVISION 8 PICNIC



Click to Buy

TRAINS AT THE TREE - The Green Tree Mall That Is

This Father's Day Weekend, join the Southern Indiana Railroad Club and share the Model Railroading Hobby with Fathers.

June 14th, 15th and 16th

Friday and Saturday – 10:00 to 8:00 PM Sunday – 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

You can sign up for 2 hour segments in advance to run a train or be a Model Railroad Evangelist. You need to bring your own trains and a Digitrax throttle or a WiFi compatible throttle.

You need to test your equipment before arriving at the Green Tree Mall. Visitors to the mall want to see trains run, not watch troubleshooting.

What's a Model Railroad Evangelist - A Model Railroader who wants to share the Hobby with the visitors to the Green Tree Mall. Talk about model trains, the local model train groups, clubs and model and prototype activities in the area.

There are 5 slots for each 2 hour segment. Train 1 and Train 2 are for SIR members. Train 3 is for guests. And 2 slots for Evangelists to spread the word.

Sign up here Father's Day TRAINS AT THE TREE

Sign up before Sunday June 9th. Thereafter, those slots will also be open to SIR members. 2 slots for Evangelists are the minimum. There can't be too many Evangelists! All are welcome to come and spread the word. And don't forget to wear your Division 8 outfit.

The Green Tree Mall
757 E Lewis & Clark Parkway
Clarksville, IN 47129

Green Tree Mall

MIKE BRESTEL PASSES AWAY

Former NMRA President Mike Brestel passed away on May 22, 2024. He was 73 years old. Many of us in Division 8 have memories of Mike. As NMRA President, Mike attended several of the MCR Conventions hosted by Division 8. After serving two terms as NMRA President, he was still active in NMRA, and could usually be found running a sales table at the Division 7's Cincinnati Model Train and Trade Show at Lakota West High School.





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YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED

Photos of your layout 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



UPSCALE HOBBIES

123 S Indiana Ave
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Rick Geerts - Owner

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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

Division 8, MCR, NMRA

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

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Superintendent: Ron Ellison
Asst. Supt: Fred Soward
Clerk: Rick Maloney
Treasurer: Mike Berry

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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.

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."



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

The Division 8 Annual Picnic is just around the corner. Look your best with a Division 8 short sleeve polo or t-shirt. And be comfortable in one of our lighter weight outfits. There's never a good reason to not look your best. At this late date, we can't get your outfit to you before the Picnic unless you opt to pay a little postage. Don't wait. Order TODAY! Tick, Tick Tick . . .