

The Pie Card

Volume 58, November 2024, Number 11

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison



Don't forget the Division 8 Train Show & Sale on Saturday, November 16, 2024. For NMRA members with current membership card in hand, you can enter the show at 9 AM. The show is open to the public from 10 AM to 3 PM.

The success of the show is judged by paid admissions. We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. And our Train Shows are our only fund-raising event. We don't receive any funds from the NMRA or the Mid Central Region. And as an active non-profit, we have expenses to cover. So even if you are participating in the show as a volunteer, why not buy a ticket! It's \$6. If you can't afford that to help spread the word about Modeling Railroading, we'll give you a payday loan until you can get even. Just let us know if you need the help.

Do yourself, and Train Show Staff a favor, and buy a ticket in advance here

BUY YOUR TICKET IN ADVANCE NOW

You'll have more money in your pocket the day of the Show. PLUS, if you print your advance ticket and bring it to the show, you'll have a chance to win a \$50 Roundhouse Electric Trains gift certificate. The drawing for the gift certificate is limited to those who purchase an advance ticket. You can buy more than one ticket if you'd like to help even more. There are no fees to purchase a ticket in advance.

Here's an idea. Bring a friend to the Show. The one you've been wanting to share Model Railroading with. You know. Your friends who have been asking how you spend your free time. It will be much easier to explain all about the Model Railroading Hobby by seeing it at the **Train Show & Sale**. And they can easily become an NMRA member at the Show using our simplified online application. We can collect new member dues paid with cash, check, credit or debit card. Set! Not ready for membership? Stop by the Division 8 tables and find out about the advantages of NMRA membership. Like fellowship, education, member only discounts, digital resources, and information about Division 8. Or ask questions. We have 2 Information Stations with knowledgeable members on hand. If they don't know the answers, they know where to send you to get the answers. As you know, in Model Railroading, there are many unique and different ways to do things.

We hope to see many Division 8 members at the Show. And if you haven't volunteered, there are opportunities available. Send us an email if you can help. We talked about all the different jobs in the [OCTOBER Superintendent's Column](#). Read it again by clicking on the link. I can tell you we weren't flooded with offers to help. So how about it. Can you help?

After the Train Show & Sale, we have the Division 8 Christmas Party. This year on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at the Corner Café. We gather at 4:30 with dinner at 5:30 followed by a short program that will recap all we did in 2024. See the flyer later in this edition of *The Pie Card* for more information and a link to reserve your place at the dinner table. See you at the Division 8 Train Show & Sale!

TIME TABLE

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. (see page 10)

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. (see page 11)

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

Jan 18, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Jan 18, Sat, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

NOVEMBER 2024 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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
August	MOW equipment
September	Photos (model) and photos (prototype)
October	Steam locomotives

For October, the 2024-2025 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest had three entries in the steam locomotives category. Everyone was a winner this time around!

Third place went to Bob Frankrone for "Old Time Steam." Second place went to Eric Waggoner for "NC&St.L Steam." First place went to Steve Lasher for "NYC H-6 2-8-2 Kit." Congratulations to each steam modeler!

The revised point totals are now: Bob Frankrone with 9, Russ Weis with 8, Ed Brennan and Steve Lasher with 7 each, Bruce DeMaeyer, Rick Maloney and Eric Waggoner with 4 each, Al Goodman with 2, and George Ronn with 1.

As a reminder, our new contest rule means that if you have entered a model before in the contest, you may enter it again unless that model received first place, in which case you may no longer enter that model again in the same category where it won first place.

The November Contest is **DISPLAYS**. A display may be of any size, including a diorama or a module, as long as it was built separately from any layout it later may have been added to.

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

- October 26th - First day to submit entries
- November 2nd - Last day to submit entries
- November 7th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- November 7th & 8th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 8th
- November 9th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- December 7th - First day to submit December contest entries **HIGHWAY VEHICLES**

(continued to column 2)



NOVEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

The November Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday November 9 (note this a week earlier than usual)** 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. Fred Soward is presenting, "Building Turnouts using Fast Tracks."

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

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

To enter the November 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

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

This month we had three members hospitalized - Rick Geerts, Greg Gephart, and Kent Westphal. All three are out and recuperating. The Member Welfare Fund fiscal YTD donations remain - Anonymous-\$100; Charlie Keeling family-\$200. Remember, if you hear of a member or spouse in the hospital or with a death in the family, please notify the Member Welfare committee or one of the Board members.

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 three renewals (Jason Acree, Miles Eberle, David Mertz Sr.). We also had two expired (Bob Johnson, Robert Wartschlager). One new member (John Snyder).

OCTOBER CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST *Photos by the Modelers unless indicated otherwise.*

The October Contest was Steam Locomotives.

**FIRST PLACE:**

Above: Steve Lasher's HO New York Central 2-8-2

Steve built this model from a DJH (British) Models USRA 2-8-2 kit. The frame is two heavy brass etchings separated by brass spacers screwed in place. The boiler is a die-casting with lost wax detail parts added. The side rods are stainless steel photo-etchings. Added details include: low water alarm, correct NYC headlight, and repositioned generator correct for a NYC H-6. The tender is a Bachmann long USRA with added details including: extending the coal space, ATS equipment, poling pole, and rereiling frogs correct for NYC. A Soundtraxx Tsunami2 decoder was added with a sugar cube speaker in the tender.

Photo by Russ Weis

**SECOND PLACE:**

Above: Eric Waggoner's HO "NC&STL STEAM"

Eric described his model as "unmodified." He provided a description of the prototype: Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis 4-8-2 Mountain #553 steam locomotive stops briefly at a local station. The NC&StL received five USRA light Mountains from the American Locomotive Company in 1919. These locomotives were designated as Class J1-54 and assigned road numbers 550 through 554. They had 27 x 30 cylinders, 69" drivers, a boiler pressure of 200 psi, a tractive effort of 53,900 lbs. and weighed 327,000 pounds.

(continued on page 4)

OCTOBER CONTEST (continued from page 3)**THIRD PLACE:**

Left: Bob Frankrone's "OLD TIME STEAM."

This is an unmodified Bachmann "Big Hauler" G-gauge locomotive. It is 36 years old and still runs great (dead rail, battery powered).

OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

By Rick Maloney MMR®, Division 8 Clerk

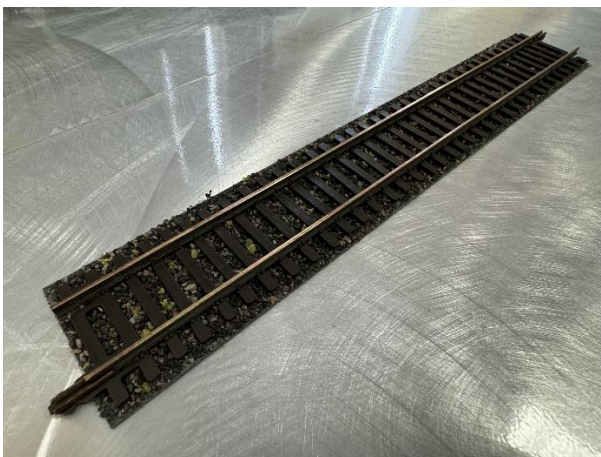
The Membership Meeting was held at the Jeffersontown branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, on October 19, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Attendance was 35, with 27 members attending in person (including 2 visitors), and 8 members on Zoom. The speaker was Bruce McKeown. Mike Berry reported that three members had been hospitalized, but are now at home. Achievement Program Chairman Mark Norman presented Stan White with Merit Awards for his Yard Security Office and Concrete Slab Warehouse. Mark asked for volunteers to help with evaluating, and encouraged members to participate in the Achievement Program with entries. Congratulations to Steve Lasher for his winning contest entry. Bob Johnson brought a display track made with a section of track stuck on Gorilla Tape with ballast applied. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Bruce McKeown on Helium Cars.

**SHOW AND TELL TABLE**

Two members brought models for display on the "Show and Tell" table. Bob Johnson brought a S-Scale locomotive and passenger car.

Carl Hulsewede brought a HO Helium Car, origin unknown.

Photo by Bob Dawson



Left:

As part of Show and Tell, Bob Johnson described how he fabricated ballasted S Gauge "sectional track" using "Gorilla Tape." Pressed the track into the sticky side of tape, then pressed ballast between the ties. He noted that the tape does not dry out.

Photo by Fred Soward

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

One of the big events in October was attending the North Central Region Convention in Northville, MI, near Detroit. They were treating it as practice for next year's NMRA National Convention which will be in the same area and hosted by the same group. One of the best model railroad meets/conventions I've ever attended. Smooth running, lots of presentations, lots of modular layouts in several scales (N, HO, S, and G) at the convention venue, plenty of layout tours (I visited 11 of 16), plenty of operating sessions (I attended 2), a really good price to attend, and of course, lots of visiting with old friends and making new friends. *(See photos beginning on page 7 of this issue)*

Bob Dawson, Eric Waggoner, and I made a three-day trip to Bob Weinheimer's Pennsylvania Southern in Charleston, WV. Good times as always, but this time we dialed the operating session intensity down a bit and took a more relaxed approach to running trains across the layout. Bob Weinheimer and I compared our calendars while we were visiting, so we now have some tentative dates setup for 2025. Contact me directly if you're interested in taking the trip with us next year.

Ms Barbara has been busy this past month as well, crafting embroidered hand towels for the Pennsylvania Southern crew restroom and editing NMRAX videos for publication on the NMRA YouTube channel.

And, in case you're keeping score, I'm continuing to craft turnouts for Watsonville Junction Yard and beyond. We're still hoping to get enough of them in place to be able to start up mini-operating sessions down there again – soon. And, finally, with any luck at all, we're thinking we might even have the sub-roadbed in place through Watsonville and into Santa Cruz before Thanksgiving.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, Achievement Program Chairman

Welcome to the Matrix! No, this is not the SciFi thriller movie, though the series is fun to watch. Better still, it's not the matrices and matrix arithmetic you may have encountered in algebra. These matrices are the NMRA Guidelines that are used when evaluating your models. A link is provided on the Division 8 website. Click on the Achievement Program tab. At the very top of the page below my contact information is the link - <https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/2006-judging-guide-lines.pdf>. While not an action thriller, it clearly shows how evaluations are done. In essence, the matrix considers the complexity of the model and the quality of the workmanship. As an example, I constructed an outhouse from a $3/8'' \times 3/8''$ balsa stick in 30 minutes. The top was angled for the rain to run off. Corrugated metal was glued to the top. The door was etched in with an x-acto knife. The wood was stained and a some weathering powder applied. Complexity 1, workmanship 14. Score 15. It serves its purpose as a background structure. The 'scene' was the boxcar project Fred Soward gave us. The foreground model was far more complex but was never evaluated. Granted, the matrix is not a titillating thriller. It does clarify the process. Looking forward to seeing the amazing work everyone does!

Division 8 needs Achievement Program Evaluators. If you are interested, contact AP Chairman Mark Norman MMR® or see him at a meeting.



Left:

At the October meeting, AP Chairman Mark Norman MMR®, presented Stan White with Merit Award Structures certificates for Stan's models: Concrete Slab Warehouse (Low Relief) and Yard Security Office.

Photo by Fred Soward



Russ Weis opened his layout to members following the October meeting. Some of those attending, from top left clockwise:

Robert Hoffman and his father John talking to host Russ Weis. David Mertz with Stan White (Stan was helping Russ keep the trains moving). Don and Karen Fowler

If you would like to open your layout after a meeting, contact Russ.

Photos by Bob Dawson

QUESTION ANSWERED

In his October Pie Card article about the Little River Railroad Museum in Townsend, TN, Fred Soward asked, "Anyone know what this is? I don't. Bob Dawson doesn't. Neither did the person on duty in the museum gift shop."

Steve Lasher stepped up to the challenge and provided this answer: "I'd say it's the pattern for a rear cylinder head on a steam locomotive. You're looking at what would be the inside of it, and the hole in the middle is where the piston rod packing gland would go. That's my guess, anyway."



2024 NORTH CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION

Fred Soward, MMR, Photos by the author

As I mentioned in this month's Assistant Superintendent column, I spent a few days in Michigan, attending the 2024 North Central Region Convention. I visited a bunch of layouts and had the opportunity to operate on two of them. I culled the nearly 1,000 photos I took during the three days I was there, down to just these few to give you a taste of what's coming during next year's 2025 NMRA National Convention in Novi, MI.



Left:

That's Fred's good friend Phil Dolittle from Division 8, NCR, who worked with him running three different trains on Barry Hensel's HO scale Reading Railroad.

Below:

It's 1970 and the Reading Railroad is still running pretty strong in Barry Hensel's basement. This is just one of several yards and industrial areas on the layout.

Below:

Bill Neale passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. His highly detailed HO scale Pennsylvania Railroad layout is still up and running. Fortunately, the family enjoys having Bill's crew over for regular operating sessions and enjoys having the layout open for open houses and layout visits.



*(continued on
page 8)*



Left:

This is a look at just one of three large peninsulas on Jim Tilley's HO scale layout. This photo shows less than one quarter of the layout.

Right:

John Emley's Soo Line layout runs across the plains, so no huge mountain scenes. That really doesn't matter, tho, because his scenery is simply amazing in its simplicity and recreation of the prototype. Soo Line on the plains.



Left:

Ken Chick's N scale layout is set in the high mountains of the Rockies. All turnouts and crossings are scratch built. There's a lot of mountain scenery, which you'd expect to see on a large N scale layout. What really sets Ken's layout apart are all the highly detailed scenes like this one.

(continued on page 9)

2024 NORTH CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION (continued from page 8)

Right:

If you've ever been to Bob Bartizek's 3-Rail Pennsylvania & Western Railroad O Scale layout near Cincinnati, Norm Charbonneau's layout is going to seem really familiar! Part of that reason is that it's also a 3-Rail O Scale layout based on the Pennsylvania Railroad. The other reason is Bob Bartizek has been a driving force and mentor to Norm during the building of this layout.



Left:

Ron King's HO scale Erie layout is big and bold. Every structure is either a craftsman kit or a craftsman-level scratch built structure. The scenery is almost overwhelming and the layout runs nearly perfectly.

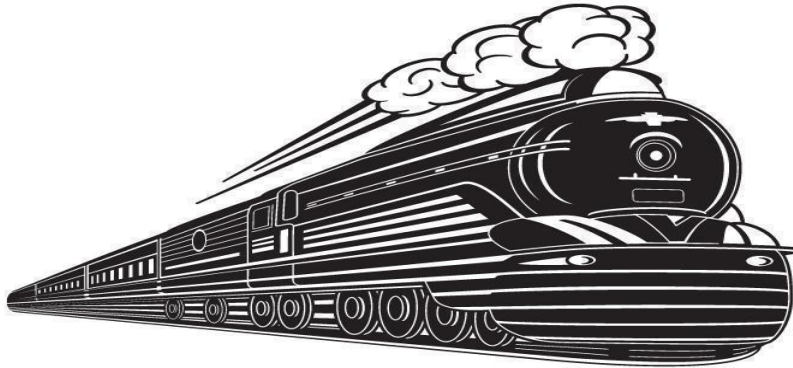
Right:

Fred ran three different trains during the operating session on Ron King's layout. As you can see, it gets a little bit tight in some areas of the layout.



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

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE





2024 Christmas Party

Saturday December 7, 2024

Gather @ 4:30 ~ Buffet Dinner @ 5:30
\$15 per person



9307 New La Grange Rd
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MAP LINK [CORNER CAFE](#)

A brief program ~ 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Will be presented after dinner

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The Depot Railroad Museum

Division 8, MCR, NMRA

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

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

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 Tom Guenthner
 Russ Weis

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 Secretary: Bruce DeMaeyer
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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.

It's getting to be that time of year! Don't forget to tell Santa if you'd like to find something from Division 8 under the tree. We take collect calls if that's what Santa needs. Or Santa can email or call us. We're epitome of discretion.