

The Pie Card

Volume 59, April 2025, Number 4

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

Something different for the April Superintendent's column – a guest columnist.

My name is Henry Sanders and throughout most of my life I have held a passion for model railroading. Now, as I begin my retirement, I have started construction on a model railroad that will likely be my last, but surely my greatest, in a 20'x42' space in Bagdad, KY. I could do this on my own, but it would be a lot more fun and productive if I had some others working alongside me, so I am reaching out to ask for help. I am well on the way to completing the benchwork so hopefully the carpentry (and the dust it generates) will soon be over for the most part.

I have all the supplies, lumber, equipment, track, structures, rolling stock, steam and diesel motive power that we will need. The only thing I am missing is the assistance of a few folks, like me, that can lend a helping hand, offer insights from their personal experiences and be a sounding board for how to do certain things. It would also just be nice to have some company. And in a show of appreciation, I would be happy to buy lunch for each session from the B&N Food Market next door - best beef brisket in the state of KY.

The idea for this model railroad is to depict the Louisville & Nashville in the mid-50's as it looked starting in Shelbyville, KY through Bagdad, Frankfort, Patio, Ravenna and venture to an eastern Kentucky coal mine (point to point). There is a strong sense of history in the Shelby County community, and I know the locals will enjoy seeing this history in miniature, not to mention the fun of watching trains run, which everyone loves. The plan is to open it up to the public as it nears "completion" and on a regular basis after it is finished.

The location of the market is 5965 Elmburg Road, Bagdad, KY 40003. My construction "sessions" generally take place on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 3. My email address is: Henry.Sanders@LelandKY.com, and cell (502) 387-1002. I live in Louisville but have a farm in Bagdad where I spend most weekends. It is a pleasure to be a part of the NMRA/Division 8.

I'm sure Henry would appreciate your assistance. Please contact him directly. And if you'd like to be a guest columnist if you have something of importance to share with Division 8 members, your words could be here too! Just send your proposed article to Division 8 → [Email Division 8](#)

Our May Membership Meeting will take place in La Grange at 2:00 PM during **RAIL FEST 175** CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF TRAINS ON MAIN. More information on page 7 of this issue.



TIME TABLE

Apr 12, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.*

Apr 26, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

May 10, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, La Grange, KY and on Zoom.*

May 15-18, Buckeye Express, MCR Regional Convention, Columbus, OH.

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

Jun 28, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

Jul 14-19, NMRA National Convention, Novi, MI.

Jul 26, Sat. Div 8 Picnic, Bluegrass Railroad Museum, Versailles, KY.

Aug 2, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

Aug 16, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Aug 30, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

APRIL 2025 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

April	Passenger cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open loads
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

For March, Division 8's Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest topic was structures. There were seven entries, spanning several eras and types of modeling.

Honorable mention goes to Ed Brennan MMR for "M.J. Clark Grocery Store", to Bob Frankrone for "Sunrise Feed & Seed," to Al Goodman for "Fenced Highway Bridge," and to Randy Griggs for "S Scale 50's-60's Vintage Studebaker Dealership."

Third place goes to Bob Kuchler for "American Equipment Company Factory." Second place goes to Jody McNutt for "My Engine House." First place goes to Chris Broughton for "Albany Office Building." Congratulations to our modelers for their outstanding craftsmanship!

The revised point totals are now: Bob Kuchler with 16, Bob Frankrone with 15, Ed Brennan with 13, Randall Griggs with 9, Steve Lasher and Russ Weis with 8 each, Rick Maloney and Eric Waggoner with 5 each, Chris Broughton, Bruce DeMaeyer, and Al Goodman with 4 each, Paul Downs and Jody McNutt with 3 each, John Helton and Fred Soward with 2 each, and George Ronn and Barbara Soward with 1 each.

Please note that the Division 8 monthly meetings will be on the second Saturday in April and May. So, the first day to enter the contest in those months will be early: March 29 and April 26 respectively.

The April Contest is **PASSENGER CARS**

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

- March 29th - First day to submit entries
- April 5th - Last day to submit entries
- April 10th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot

(continued to column 2)



APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

The March Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday, April 1, 2025 (a week earlier than normal)** 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. Norm Logan is presenting the program, "Producing a Museum Quality Backdrop for your layout." Bob Frankrone's layout will be open following the meeting. (See page 6 of this issue for details.)

CONTEST TIMELINES (continued from column 1)

- April 10th & 11th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 11th
- April 12th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- April 26th - First day to submit May contest entries **CABOOSSES**

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

To enter the April Contest, use the **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**.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White, Membership Relations Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 148 active members. We had two renewals (Paul Downs, Scott Griggs) Zero expired members. No new members.

MARCH CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

Photos by the Modelers



FIRST PLACE

Left: Chris Broughton's HO "Albany Office Building." Chris kit-bashed the structure using four City Classics, East Ohio Street buildings. The building was spray painted in layers beginning with the window frames. Small details were painted by hand. Weathering was applied with a combination of airbrushing and chalks. Store interiors were made from photos found on line and photo-edited.

SECOND PLACE

Right: Jody McNutt's HO, "My Engine House." This is a 3D printed model of an Engine House that Jody downloaded from KABRUMBLE <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:4441261>. He added a shingled roof, interior and exterior lights. The exterior and interior were painted and dry brushed with powders.



THIRD PLACE

Left: Bob Kuchler's MMR® N-Scale "American Equipment Company Factory." Bob Built this large factory using two Brach's Candy Factory kits and some brick sheet and Evergreen Styrene strips. Many roof details were added and the building stretched with the additional materials. It was then painted including using a rubber roller rolled over black paint and then the windows to paint the framing. The sign is from City Classics. Bob lost the loading dock doors over the years, and replaced them with television screen material.

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MARCH CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST (continued from page 3)

HONORABLE MENTION



Left: Ed Brennan's HO "1950's M.J. Clark Grocery Store."

Ed "revived" this from his extras box. He stripped off an ugly shade of latex green from the model and repainted it with a spray of Floquil white paint.

Clear acetate was installed behind the window frames and door frame. Signs, some downloaded and printed, were attached with Elmer's Glue.



Right: Bob Frankrone's HO "Sunrise Feed and Seed." This is a Walthers Cornerstone kit that Bob built, painted, weathered, and detailed.



Left: Al Goodman's HO "Fenced Highway Bridge."

Al built this from Rix Products HO kits. LED street lights were added. The fence structures were made from styrene heated with a heat gun, bent to shape and cut to length. The fencing was made from bridal tulle cloth, cut on skew and air brushed painted steel for galvanized steel appearance. The cloth was CA cemented to the support posts and strip styrene supports the curved line of fencing.

Right: Randy Griggs' S-Scale scratch-built 60's "Studebaker Dealership." It is based on a historic, and still standing, building in Mena, Arkansas. Randy used views on Google Maps to scale and work out the details for the model.



PHOTOS FROM THE MARCH MEETING

Photos by Barbara Soward unless noted otherwise



Left:

Only one model was displayed on the Show & Tell Table, Bob Kuchler's contest entry.



Right:

Chris Broughton MMR® was presented with his March Contest First Place Certificate at the Division 8 Train Show and Sale.



Left: Mark Norman MMR® Division 8 Achievement Program Chairman presented Stan White with a Structures Merit Award.

LAYOUT OPEN HOUSE

Following the meeting Stan White at his layout.



Above: Host Stan White (left) fields some questions from Bob Frankrone about Stan's layout.
Photo by Fred Soward



Left: Some of the members who visited with Stan.
Photo by Bob Dawson

MARCH MEETING REPORT

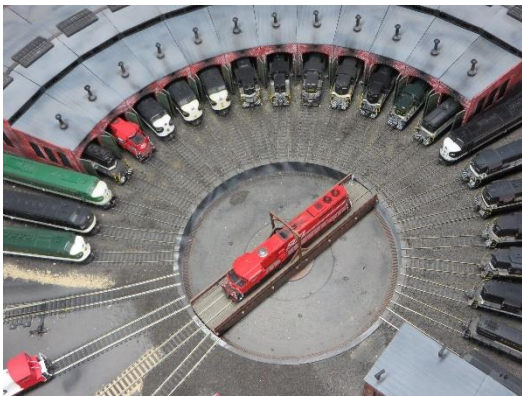
By Rick Maloney MMR® Division 8 Clerk

Division 8 held its monthly meeting on Saturday March 8, 2025, at the Jeffersontown branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. It was a hybrid meeting with 31 members plus one spouse attending in person, and seven on Zoom for a total of 39, one of our largest attendances in a while. There were no guests.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Superintendent Ron Ellison. Ron announced that it was International Woman's Day, and he praised the women present and those who were online. He welcomed new member Derick Lowhorn to his first meeting. He also greeted Rick Tipton, Scott Griggs, and Ed Ryan members we haven't seen in a while. We were pleased to hear from Mike Berry that there were no members on the Member Welfare report this month. Achievement Program Chairman Mark Norman MMR® presented Stan Whitle with a Merit Award for Structures. Chris Broughton MMR® took 1st place in this month's model contest with "Albany Office Building". Ron reviewed our online contest page, illustrating the content and the ease of use.

Ron introduced our speaker, Division 8 member Robert Hoffman who gave a presentation titled "Handlaying Track, Foam to Finish". Ron made an appeal for volunteers to host open house layout tours after the meeting. He reminded us that next Saturday March 15th, 2025 is the Division 8 Train Show and Sale. It was also mentioned that La Grange Railfest 175 will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 10:00 to 5:00. We will be having our May Membership Meeting at Railfest in the La Grange Community Center, 307 West Jefferson St.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM. Stan White hosted a layout open house following the meeting.

APRIL LAYOUT OPEN HOUSE

Bob Frankrone's HO Louisville Southern layout, will be open following the April 12 Division 8 meeting. Bob's layout will be open immediately after the meeting until 6:00pm. Street parking is the best option, so that no one is blocked in. Enter through the front door and someone will guide you to the basement. Photos are allowed.

Bob's address and directions will be provided at the March meeting. Bob will put out some signs to help. He hopes to see you there.

Left: Photo from Bob's layout. *Photo by Bob Frankrone*

Russ Weis invites you to open your layout to members following a Division 8 Meeting. Your address, directions, and any parking instructions will be given at the meeting so there will only be Division 8

members attending. You can let Russ know at a meeting or you can send a message by email to:

division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com, or call or text: (502) 653-5371 with your contact information, and he will get in touch with you.

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

Did you enjoy the Division 8 Train Show & Sale last month? Maybe find some bargains, make a bunch of sales, meet up with old friends, find some new friends, or perhaps you learned something new? How would you compare that experience with five years ago? I'm guessing most everyone would say it was much better. Five years ago, we were just starting our long solitude of COVID-19 isolation and our Division 8 Spring 2020 Train Show & Sale was cancelled just a few days before it was set to happen. As a group, we managed to make it through all that lockdown stuff pretty well. I'm not going to go into the details in this month's column. Instead, check out my article (and a bunch of Barbara's photos) in the April 2025 edition of the NMRA Magazine.

A quick update on the Santa Cruz & Felton. All the homabed roadbed is laid down up to Felton, which is where we stopped building benchwork. Barbara & I put in a bit of scenery in the Pajaro river section so that we could install the bridge that connects Watsonville Junction with Watsonville itself. We sure weren't going to set the bridge in place before we crafted the river bottom, banks, and basic static grass in that area. And the bridge had to go in to be able to connect the Santa Cruz & Felton to the rest of the world. Along with a couple of quick operating session trips, NMRA BoD tasks, and
(continued on page 7)

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT *(continued from page 6)*

Division 8 BoD tasks this month, I've also been busy building a whole bunch of turnouts to go on top of the homabed we installed.

Bob Dawson, Tom Guenthner, and I made quite a bit of progress on Tom's operating scheme for his new layout last month. Tom needs to do some additional trackwork before we'll be ready to begin operating sessions there, but we are really close to beginning to do some trial runs with a skeleton crew. Hoping we can do the trial runs in April and maybe, just maybe, after the Mid Central Region Convention in May, we'll be able to start doing some real honest-to-goodness operating sessions on Tom's new layout.

MEMBER WELFARE

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

This was a very good Member Welfare month with no one hospitalized. Let's see how long we can keep this up! Don't forget to let us know if you do hear of a member or their family with an issue. The Member Welfare Fund this fiscal year has donations from the Charlie Keeling family (\$200) and an anonymous \$100 donation.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, Achievement Program Chairman

The AP Program: A Pathway to Mastery

The National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program (AP) stands as a beacon for hobbyists seeking to elevate their craft beyond casual participation. Like a well-planned railroad route, the AP charts a clear path through the diverse terrain of modeling skills, guiding enthusiasts toward mastery of their chosen art form.

At its core, the program recognizes that model railroading encompasses numerous specialized disciplines—from electrical engineering and civil planning to artistic composition and historical accuracy. By establishing clear benchmarks in categories such as Motive Power, Structures, Scenery, and Prototype Models, the AP transforms overwhelming possibilities into manageable journeys of growth.

What distinguishes the program is its emphasis on both technical proficiency and creative expression. Participants don't merely follow rigid specifications; they're encouraged to infuse their work with personal vision while adhering to quality standards. This balance challenges modelers to push boundaries while maintaining authenticity and craftsmanship.

The true value of the AP lies not in certification alone, but in the transformative process it facilitates. As modelers progress through requirements, they discover new techniques, solve complex problems, and develop their artistic voice. The resulting journey creates not just better models, but more skilled, confident, and fulfilled model railroaders whose passion continues to evolve throughout a lifetime of learning.

MAY MEETING INFORMATION

By Fred Soward MMR®

While the April Meeting will be at the Jeffersontown Library, the May 10, 2025 meeting will be the same time, but at a new Location!

We're moving the location of the Division 8 Membership Meeting! And, we're moving it a week early! But just for one month.



The May 10, 2025 Division 8 Membership Meeting, including the presentation, will be at the James Beaumont Community Center, 307 West Jefferson Street, La Grange, KY 40031. We will start at the same time as always - 2:00 PM. No need to fret about parking. There's plenty of FREE parking within a 2-minute (or less) walk of the front door.

The event organizers have added our meeting to the list of activities that'll happen during La Grange Rail Fest 175 on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Because we will be part of the event, we will be able to share what we do with the general public. And, we will have a few layouts running in the same facility all day that day as well as a few dealers selling

model railroad stuff. There are a LOT of activities happening that day. So, be sure to come out EARLY and STAY LATE!

(continued on page 8)

MAY MEETING INFORMATION (continued from page 7)

A few key things to remember for the Saturday, May 10, 2025, Division 8 Meeting:

- The May 10, 2025 Membership meeting will take place in La Grange during La Grange RAIL FEST 175.
- Regular time 2:00 PM, but come early, see Rail Fest, and socialize with Division 8 members.
- Location is James Beaumont Community Center, 307 W Jefferson St, La Grange, KY 40031 - Enter by the main entrance and come forward down the hall and look for an open door to the right and the meeting area.

The May 2025 Division 8 Membership Meeting is a week early because of the Buckeye Express Mid Central Region Convention in Columbus, OH.

PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW AND SALE

Photos by Theresa Berry, Bob Dawson, Barbara Soward, and Fred Soward



Left and below:

Train Show day (March 15, 2025) began before dawn with dealer move in. The dealers were assisted by Division 8 members and young people from Holy Family Parish.

The majority of the move-ins were accomplished before a fast moving rain and hail storm raced through the area.



Left:

Theresa Berry taking care of dealer check-in.



Right:

Barbara Soward taking time for a little coffee!



(continued on page 8)

PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW AND SALE (continued from page 8)



Left:

Russell Curry setting up his tables. Russell has been a dealer at our shows for many years.



Right & Below: "Conductor" Fred Soward MMR®. Fred was at the entrance to the show, greeting our guests and directing them to either the cash or credit card lines, as well as letting them know what we had to offer.



Above: As people came in, it was credit cards and pre-pay to the right, cash to the left.

Right: Russ Weis and Ruth Lynch at the cash table.
Below: Stan White (left) and Kent Westphal at the credit card table.

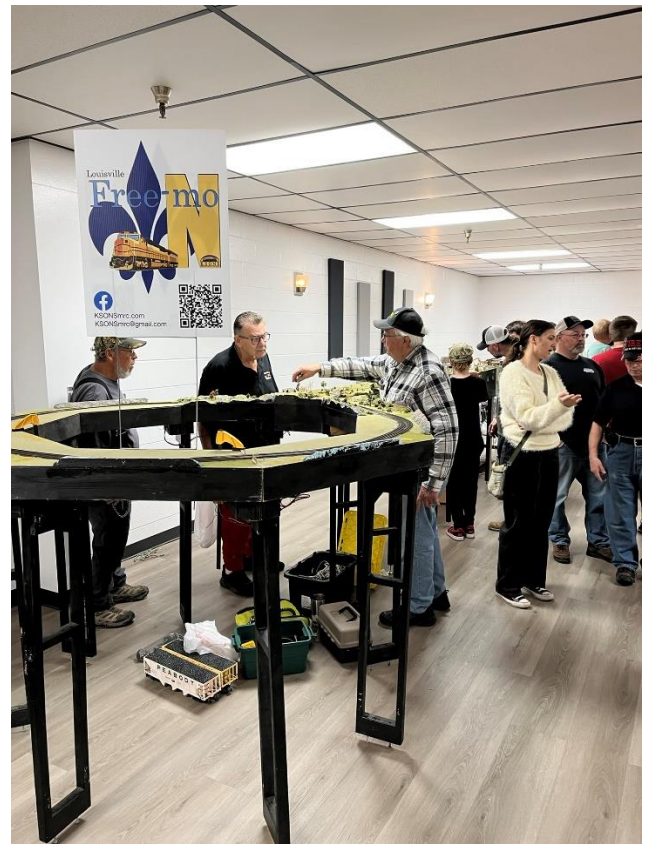


(continued on page 10)

PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW AND SALE *(continued from page 9)*



Left: From left to right—Bob Johnson, “Conductor “ Fred Soward MMR®, Rob Johnson.



Right: One of layouts up and running at the show; The Louisville Free-moN group. Rick Maloney MMR® (plaid shirt) is answering a question.

Below: Free-mo member Bob Kuchler MMR® rerails a car while fellow member Patrick Hardesty looks on.



Above: Louisville Lionel Operating Club.

(continued on page 10)

PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW AND SALE (continued from page 10)



The train show was spread over two rooms in the Saffin Center.

Above: The main room. Below: The rear room. Sales tables and layouts were in both rooms.



Above: Some more photos from the show.

UPDATE ON THE MONON TRAIL

By Al Goodman, photos by the author unless otherwise noted

Here are some photos from March 12 of the construction status of the Monon Trail project in Salem, IN. The old box car that was isolated in Salem for many years has been refurbished and is still located in Salem. It will serve as a trail node with parking spaces for accessing the trail. The 68-mile trail has mostly all had the asphalt placed with road crossings still to be finished. Looks like it could be completed this summer. It should make a great bike ride.



Above right: Eric Waggoner took this picture of the "Salem" box car as it appeared in 2012. The occasion was the Division 8 Picnic which was held at the Depot Museum in Salem that year.



Left:
Track removal near New Albany, IN early in the project.
Photo by Bill Lynch

LA GRANGE RAILFEST 175



MAY 10TH, 2025

ALL ABOARD FOR A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND
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FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISITLAGRANGE.COM



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2025 NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW

JULY 19-20, 2025
10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

About Our Event!

Thank you for your interest in exhibiting at the 2025 National Train Show® in Novi, Michigan! The National Model Railroad Association® (NMRA®) is excited to bring together model railroad enthusiasts, retailers, manufacturers, and hobbyists for this premier event at the Suburban Collection Showplace on July 19-20, 2025. As one of the industry's most anticipated shows, the NTS offers unique opportunities to showcase products, connect with dedicated enthusiasts, and share the joy of model railroading with the public.

Event Highlights

- Demonstrations LIVE** ◀
Multiple manufacturing demonstration: Woodland Scenics, Craftsman corner for the hands on experience and so much more!
- Product Announcements & Vendors Market** ◀
yes, you will be able to buy all of the things
- NMRA 90th Anniversary Celebrations** ◀
Help us celebrate our 90th anniversary with several events throughout the show.
- Over 25+ layouts** ◀
Over 25 layout of ALL scales and counting

Oh and did we mention that THOMAS is coming? Bring the kids!

Website
www.nmra.org

Contact us
ntsreg@nmra.org







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- RAILFANNING 8 TO 8 DAILY
- AND MORE TO COME

MORE INFORMATION

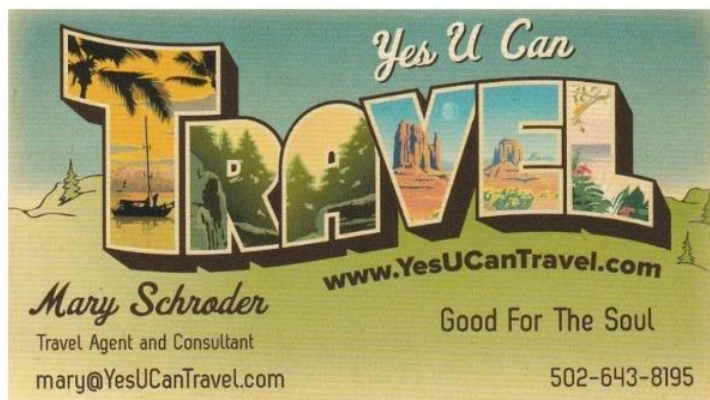
LOCATION – [GOOGLE MAP LINK](#)

WEBSITE – <https://atthetraindepot.com/>

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And I will help you plan an amazing adventure. Whether you're planning an Ocean Cruise, River Cruise, Land Adventure OR an amazing TRAIN JOURNEY, I can help! Simply tell me where you want to go, and I will help you figure out the rest.



Mid-Central Region Annual Convention

BUCKEYE EXPRESS 2025

May 15- 18, 2025



The Mid Central Region cordially invites you to join us for the 90th anniversary of the NMRA in its original home - Columbus, Ohio. The Buckeye Express will feature a wide range of clinics, operating sessions, layout tours (including a trip to a 7 1/2" inch gauge scale live steam operation), photo and model contests, T-TRAK, company store, swap meet, and more. Additionally, the Columbus area features three hobby shops specializing in model trains, plus two of the premier shopping areas in the Midwest (including IKEA). Nonrail activities include tours of the Ohio Statehouse, art museum, and more...

Registration: \$80.00

Additional Fare-Family Member Registration: \$35.00

(Spouse, significant other, and children 16 and under with Full Fare Registrant) **click below for information**

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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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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.

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Check the Division 8 Timetable. Is your Division 8 ensemble ready for Division 8 spring and summer events? Now's the time to get your *outfit on track*. Visit the Company Store. The clock is ticking.