

The Pie Card

Volume 59, February 2025, Number 2

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

We are different than most other nonprofits. What's the difference? We share happiness.

People are enamored with certain things. And not just children. Although it is a bit easier for those of us who want to retain some semblance of our childhoods and the enthusiasm that goes with it. For instance, automobiles, planes, and TRAINS. And that's our business – **TRAINS**.

I must admit, as I've gotten older, it is easier to be childlike all the while having the knowledge that goes along with being not just an adult, but an experienced adult, with 76 trips around the sun in my case. People of a certain age are quietly trying to show the less experienced. . . the way.

And with that comes a reminder that it's time for us to share some **TRAINS** – At the spring Division 8 Train Show & Sale on Saturday March 15, 2025, our 35th year. Is it on your calendar? Have you bought your advance ticket to support Division 8 and Model Railroading? Have you volunteered either with Division 8, one of the layouts at the show, or with one of the local clubs. Remember – We put on the Show **WITH YOU** not **FOR YOU**. And we need your help.

You can volunteer by sending us an email here – [Email Division 8](#)
Or call or text us – (502) 653-5371

Or sign up at the February meeting on the 15th or the March meeting on the 8th
Or sign up with your club or one of the layouts that will be at the Show

Even if you're volunteering, it's nice when you buy a ticket to the Show. Because we are a nonprofit and the Train Show & Sale is a fund raiser and our only source of revenue. We don't have dues, and we receive no funds from the NMRA. You can buy tickets here – [BUY A TRAIN SHOW TICKET](#)

Don't forget – if you buy an advance ticket, you'll have a chance to win a \$50 Scale Reproductions gift card by presenting your printed ticket at the Admissions tables.

You should think about buying a ticket for a friend. What a perfect way to introduce someone to model trains. Do something good for just \$6.

All the dealer tables are already sold. And most of our dealers will be the same as last fall's Show. We will have 1 new layout at the Show. Member Gary Dean has purchased a HO scale logging layout, The Crystal River Logging & Transportation Company which is 2' 6" x 9' and has previously appeared in Trackside Photos of *Model Railroader*. We look forward to seeing it for the first time. (continued to page 2, column 2).



TIME TABLE

Feb 15, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid Meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Feb 22, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

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

Mar 15, Sat 10AM-3PM, Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Safin Center, Holy Family Parish.

Mar 29, NMRAX, Virtual YouTube & Facebook.

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, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.*

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

**March, April and May meetings are on the*

FEBRUARY 2025 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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
November	Displays (no size limit)
December	Highway vehicles
January	Freight cars

For January the topic of the Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest was freight cars and there were six entries.

Honorable mention goes to Ed Brennan for his “Varney HO UTLX Tank Car,” to Steve Lasher for his “A Very Old Goldie,” and to Eric Waggoner for his “L&N 100 Ton Hopper.”

Third place went to Randall Griggs for his “S Scale Railgon;” second place to Bob Frankrone for his “Aluminum Anyone?; and first place to Bob Kuchler for his “N Scale Gorre and Daphetid 40ft Flat Car.” Congratulations to our freight car modelers!

The revised point totals are now: Bob Frankrone with 13; Bob Kuchler with 11; Ed Brennan, Steve Lasher, and Russ Weis with 8 each; Randall Griggs with 6; Rick Maloney and Eric Waggoner with 5 each; Bruce DeMaeyer with 4; Paul Downs with 3; Al Goodman, John Helton, and Fred Soward with 2 each; and George Ronn and Barbara Soward with 1 each.

The February Contest is **NON-STEAM MOTIVE POWER** (*Diesel, Electric, Gasoline, horse*)

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

- February 1st - First day to submit entries
- February 8th - Last day to submit entries
- February 13th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- February 13th & 14th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 14th
- February 15th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- February 22nd - First day to submit March contest entries **STRUCTURES**

(continued to column 2)



FEBRUARY MEETING INFORMATION

The February Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday, February 15, 2025** 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. Bill Brown MMR® is presenting, “Modeling Innovations Using LARC Graphics.” Rick Maloney’s layout will be open following the meeting. (See page 6 of this issue for details.)

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S DESK (continued from page 1).

With your NMRA membership card in hand, you can of course enter the Show one hour earlier at 9:00 AM. Come early and enjoy breakfast and stay for lunch at the Show. And stay until 3:00 PM and then give us a hand with a quick clean up after the Show – it only takes about 30 minutes. We could use your help!

And with all that said, our first and foremost reason to put on a train show – is to share the joy of model trains. Share some happiness. Who couldn’t use some of that?

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

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

To enter the February 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**.

JANUARY CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

Photos by the Modelers



FIRST PLACE

Left: Bob Kuchler's MMR® "N-Scale Gorre & Daphetid 40 ft. Flat Car.

Bob entirely scratch built this car from Evergreen Styrene to a plan he found on the Internet. The car is hand painted and decaled. The deck is paper printed with a wood plank pattern. The entire car was weathered with Pan Pastels and a load was attached with EZ Line and supported with scale 2x4s. The entire car is about three inches long.

SECOND PLACE

Right Bob Frankrone's HO "Aluminum Anyone."

Bob scratch built the load using 1/8" styrene rods from Evergreen plastics. He cut 136 rods and bundled them in blocks of 16. He painted the bundles with aluminum paint and secured them using blocking and strapping made from tape.



THIRD PLACE

Above: Randy Griggs' "S Scale Railgon." Randy began this model in 1982 when he ordered a set of decals and resized HO plans to S Scale from an article in the December 1980 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman. He scratch built the underframe and detailed the car with parts he had on hand. He finally finished the car in 1997.

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JANUARY CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST *(continued from page 3)*

HONORABLE MENTION



Left: Eric Waggoner's
HO "L&N 100 ton
hoppers."

Right: Steve Lasher's HO "A Very Old
Goldie."

Steve says this model was made from a kit circa 1950 from an unknown maker that he received built-up from a friend. The tank is made from an embossed and printed foil wrapper around a wooden dowel.



Left: Ed Brennan's "Varney HO UTLX Tank
Car."

Ed built and modified this model from a 1960's (?) era Varney kit.

JANUARY MEETING REPORT

By Rick Maloney MMR®, Division 8 Clerk

The January Membership meeting was held at the Jeffersontown Library on January 18, 2025. Superintendent Ron Ellison called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM, and Greg Short with Division 6 gave a report on the “Buckeye Express 2025” Mid Central Region Convention. The convention will be held in May of 2025 in Columbus, Ohio. Check the Pie Card for more information. We had 28 members in person, 10 members on Zoom (of those on Zoom-Greg Short Division 6), and 1 guest. Stan White received a much-deserved Merit Award for his model of a Concrete Bridge. Randy Griggs was awarded his first place certificate for his LG&E Service Truck from December’s Model Contest. Bob Kuchler was presented with a January contest first place certificate for his model of a Gore and Daphetid 40’ Flat Car. Ron reminded us that we have a Train Show and Sale coming up on March 15th 2025. After a short break we were given a presentation by Charlie Buccola on KRM’s L&N 152. Next month’s meeting will be on February 15th at the Jeffersontown Library at 2:00PM. The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 PM.

PHOTOS FROM THE JANUARY MEETING

Photos by Barbara Soward



Left: Bob Kuchler MMR® (left) presented Stan White (right) with a Merit Award, “Structure-Modern Concrete Bridge.”



Right: Charlie Keeling Contest Chairman Barry Christensen (left) presented Randy Griggs (right) with his first place certificate for the December Model Contest “Highway Vehicles.”



Left: Barry presented Bob Kuchler with his first place certificate for the January Contest “Freight Cars.”



Right: Charlie Buccola presented the program, “Railway Preservation from Full Scale to Model to the Printed Word.”

FEBRUARY LAYOUT OPEN HOUSE

Rick Maloney's N-Scale Layout, the MCNW, will be open following the February 15 Division 8 meeting. The layout will be open from 4 PM or one half hour after the meeting until 6:30 PM. Parking is available on his front or rear driveway or on the side street. Rick's layout is located on the second floor of his house, so be aware there are steps to climb. Enter through the open garage door and up the stairs at the rear. Rick's address and directions will be provided at the February Meeting. Rick will put out some signs to help. He hopes to see you there.

Stan White's layout will be open following the March meeting.

Russ Weis invites you to open your layout to members following a Division 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

So glad we decided to attend this year's Cocoa Beach RPM meet. On Christmas Eve, Barbara flew to Florida to spend some additional time with family. I drove down almost two weeks later and barely made it out of town before the first snow and ice storms arrived last month. As usual, there were great clinics, amazing models, and good times with friends, new and old, during the meet. I was able to schedule and attend two operating sessions in the area prior to the event. I've been keeping up with progress on both layouts through Facebook and email groups, but there's just nothing like seeing it all in person. There are photos of the layouts and the RPM meet elsewhere in this issue.

We made a LOT of progress on our basement layout. All the sub-roadbed is down except for the Olympia sand and gravel pits. That has to wait until I have the trackwork fully installed and tested in staging on that end of the layout. That's the next step – laying down that staging trackwork. And, then, we'll start working on the rest of the homabed and trackwork. Eventually, we'll build out some temporary staging on the other end of the layout as we wait for trackage rights across an area of the basement that's currently filled with "content."

The end of January took us to Springfield, MA, and the "Amherst Show" at the "Big E." And, of course, a bunch of NMRA BoD work while we were there, too. In addition to the friends and model railroad manufacturers we only get to see at events like this, it was great seeing so many Division 8 members up there! No photos of that event in this issue because it was way past the submission deadline for this month's issue. Maybe we'll see a few photos in the March issue.

MEMBER WELFARE

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

This month we had four members and spouses with hospital stays -- Wes Gardner, Kent Westphal's wife Jude, and Mark Norman (2 surgeries). All are home and recuperating. Mike "Doc" Shane remains in the hospital.

Our Member Welfare Fund for the fiscal year remains -- \$100 anonymous donation and a \$200 donation from the Charlie Keeling family.

And, as always, let us know if you hear of a member in need.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White, Membership Relations Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 137 active members. We had five new members (Richard Fosler, Bruce McNary, Jody McNutt, Kenneth Sharp, Tim Unruh). We had ten renewals (Barry Christensen, Ethan Davis, Nikita Henry, Carl Johnson, Richard Maloney, Bill Roberts, Brandon Vititoe, Herman Weir, Alexander Weir, Robin White). Two expired members (Jacob Schiess, Steve Lasher).

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, Achievement Program Chairman

Kalmbach long had the slogan “Model Railroading is Fun” as the masthead of Model Railroader. That simple slogan nicely sums up our hobby. Walking about wearing a Division 8 hat, shirt, or fleece often brings questions and comments. It’s fun to enter into a conversation with a stranger who becomes a new friend. Often I hear of an exciting hobby and a layout long set aside. Perhaps they moved on to modeling airplanes, cars, boats, etc. It’s all good.

Model Railroading brings a new dimension to modeling of course – motion. Static displays can be incredible. The details that can be put into any given scene showcase a persons talent. Still, it remains static. Add tracks and it changes. Are the miniature people walking to catch a train or perhaps rail fan? Add simple sounds of conversation, children playing, industrial activity, and so forth and the layout comes to life. Having a train going through the scene opens the door to innumerable questions and conversations. What kind of engine is that? Where did it come from? Where is it going? What is it carrying? How much does this cost? The last question is one with little meaning. The true cost of the hobby is not the dollars, it's the time spent enjoying it. The true reward is the joy of this fun hobby and sharing it with others. Happy New Year everyone! As you read this, the year is still young. Make it a good one!

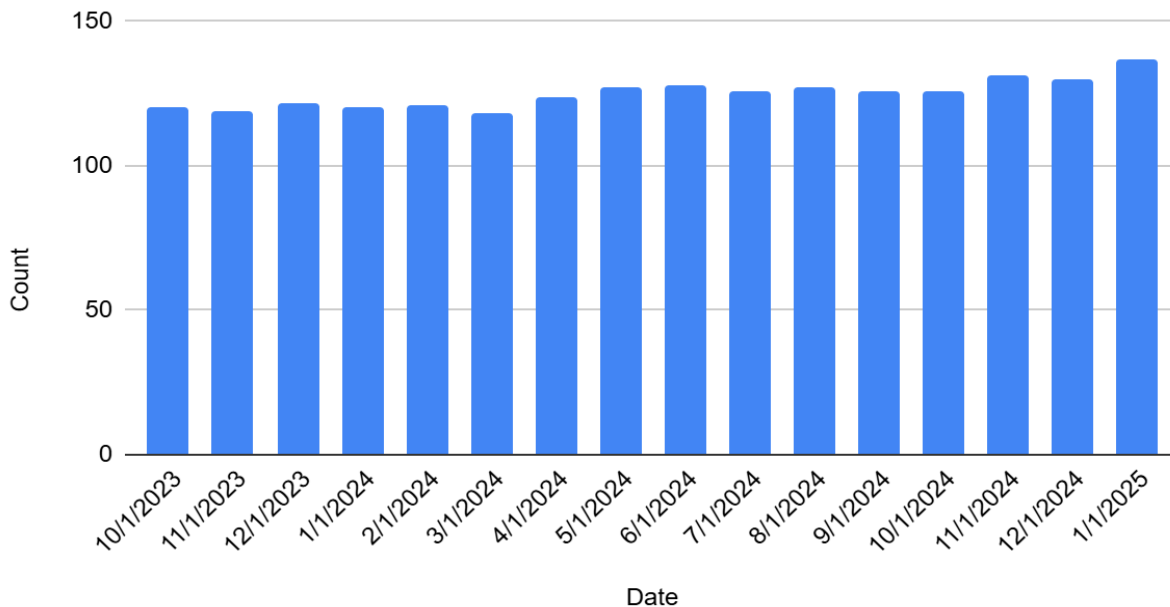
DIVISION 8 REPORT TO MID CENTRAL REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Ron Ellison, Division 8 Superintendent

This is being shared with Division 8 Members so you can see the status of the Division, and what together we have accomplished.

Subject: Division 8 Report – January 2025

Division 8 membership continues to grow. The numbers are below. We have 137 Active members as of December 1, 2024, the most recent period we have data for.

Division 8 Active Members

We have discontinued promoting Rail Pass members although there are a few successful recruitments for the program. Yours truly was a Rail Pass member when joining the NMRA. I used Rail Pass for the purpose it was intended – to try out the NMRA. I joined a 100% NMRA Club, the K & I Model Railroad Club, which required me to be an NMRA member. During the 9 months of my Rail Pass, besides Club members, I met several Division 8 members who influenced my decision to continue as an NMRA member. And that’s one of the reasons we developed and continue to implement an Onboarding Program driven by our Membership Chair Stan White. If we can help you with your program, or compare notes, please contact us. [Division 8 MCR NMRA](#) (continued on page 8)

DIVISION 8 REPORT TO MID CENTRAL REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS *(continued from page 7)*

Like most other Divisions, we continue to have new members join us, and regardless of our Onboarding Program, and sending a minimum of 2 emails a month about what we're up to, including our monthly newsletter and virtual modeling contest, those members drop off at the end of their initial membership period. We never see or have any interaction with these members. From time to time, we've reached out but without any response to our inquiry as to how we could have better met their model railroad needs. It's a mystery.

The KRM, the Kentucky Railway Museum, joined the NMRA in July and became our first Sustaining Member. They have hosted a table at our bi-annual Train Show & Sale and we actively work with them to market their events and promote volunteers at the Museum.

Another reason for our uptick in members is the SIR membership, the Southern Indiana Railroad Club, voted in November to become a 100% NMRA Club. As mentioned previously, in addition to the K & I Model Railroad Club, the SIR will be our 2nd 100% Club and the only 100% Club in Indiana. They are completing the 100% certification with NMRA HQ during January. We know that some of their members have joined the NMRA during December but we won't see those members until the February report from NMRA HQ.

We have designed our own online NMRA Membership Application to use for recruitment at Division 8 train shows and meetings. This form replaces the 1/3 sheet NMRA Membership Application. The new online form can be filled out by the new member on site using our laptop if they are comfortable using online forms. Otherwise our recruiting member fills out the online form for the new member. The information flows directly into a spreadsheet. We collect the dues allowing the new member to pay by credit card, check, or cash, and then submit the information ourselves directly on the NMRA website. Division 8 pays the dues directly by credit card from the funds collected from the new member. This eliminates most input errors on our end and at NMRA Headquarters because of illegible data. We encourage new members to pay by credit card using our Square terminal or a mobile phone using the Square app. Either is touch to pay, the most secure payment processing method.

Another reason for our uptick in membership are the new Rack Cards from the NMRA. This is a photo of our rack filled with the new Rack Cards including a Division 8 Rack Card.



NMRA Rack Cards

We look forward to using this great media tool for recruiting new members and as a retention tool to remind existing members of ALL the benefits of NMRA membership.

All Division 8 communication is by email only. Every Division 8 member hears from us a minimum of twice each month. Members who have opted in to join Division 8 Groups.io receive our Monday Train Videos featuring model and prototype railroading videos and the Wednesday Information Update also featuring model and prototype railroading and utilizing links to information on the web along with upcoming events including links to regional conventions in and around our division and national conventions including the NMRA National Convention. And any discussion resulting from these posts OR discussion online of any prototype or model railroading subjects. Groups.io is a great place to get answers to questions and share railroading. *(continued on page 9)*

DIVISION 8 REPORT TO MID CENTRAL REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS (continued from page 8)

We are fortunate to have model railroad author Bob Frankrone, a frequent contributor to the *NMRA Magazine* with his *Love the Loads* feature column, in our Division. Bob often shares some of his projects with our members in Groups.io. And that has inspired some of our other members to share what they are working on. Bob is recognized locally, regionally and nationally for his contributions to the model railroading hobby. Bob often says, "If you're going to be a member, you should be involved." He exemplifies that statement.

Our Assistant Superintendent and NMRA Central District Director Fred Soward MMR® was recently elected as the Lead Director by his NMRA Board of Directors peers. The official handover of responsibilities from the current Lead Director will be immediately prior to the 2025 NMRA National Convention. Until then, he will be assuming duties during a transition period. Along with the other responsibilities of an NMRA Director, the Lead Director is responsible for consulting directly with the NMRA President and Vice President, acting as the immediate point of contact general Board communication with the President, providing orientation and guidance to new Directors, assisting all Directors in preparation for all meetings, and encouraging the proposal and consideration of new topics for the betterment of the Association and its members. We are all fortunate to have Fred assume this key position.

We continue to emphasize technology at Division 8, recording our monthly meetings and posting those to our YouTube channel for those who are unable to attend our meetings at the scheduled day and time. We also record and post our meeting presentations separately to our YouTube channel. You can take a look at our YouTube channel here ➡ [Division 8 Mid Central Region NMRA - YouTube](#) and of course subscribe and hit the bell icon to be notified of new content. Our monthly Membership Meeting is always hybrid with ZOOM available to any NMRA member wishing to attend online.

Division 8 maintains attendance numbers for all activities. We also maintain records of which members attend what activities. Our normal meeting attendance is 30 plus or minus with another 10 to 15 attending on ZOOM.

We sell tickets to all our events online with ThunderTix. Events include tickets to our bi-annual train show, our summer picnic, occasional special events, and our Christmas party. This works for members for our own events as well as the public and dealers at our train shows. All the ThunderTix online reports make for simplified accounting for these events for our Treasurer Mike Berry. ThunderTix also interfaces with Square so funds from sales flow directly to our bank account.

Our spring 2025 Train Show & Sale is upcoming March 15, 2025. All dealer tables are sold and we have a waiting list. Our Fall 2024 show in November was another attendance record for us. Revenue was our 2nd highest ever for any Division 8 train show. [Division 8 Train Show & Sale](#)

If you want to know about Division 8, don't wait for these BoD reports. Instead, read *The Pie Card*. We email our monthly newsletter *The Pie Card* 12 times a year to all MCR Superintendents and Officers. We will also add any Mid Central Region member to our newsletter distribution list. Just send an email to [Division 8 MCR NMRA](#). You'll only receive *The Pie Card* by signing up and we do not share your name or email address information with anyone. If you are reading this report but NOT receiving *The Pie Card*, subscribe!

TRAVELS WITH FRED-2025 Prototype Rails RPM Meet

Photos by Fred Soward

While Fred and Barbara Soward were visiting family in Florida in January, Fred was able to attend the 2025 Prototype Rails Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet in Cocoa Beach, FL.



Left: Cody Cameron, Stephen Priest, and Cinthia Priest (L to R) were hard at work promoting products from Class One Model Works in the ballroom during this year's Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails RPM Meet.

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TRAVELS WITH FRED-2025 Prototype Rails RPM Meet *(continued from page 9)*



Left: Ben Bartlett set out nearly 50 Erie models he'd constructed over the years - some scratch built, some kit built, and all customized and super detailed.



Right: Luke Lemmens created an entire weed sprayer train and brought it all the way from Green Bay, WI, to show it off in the display room during this year's Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails RPM Meet.



Left: A head-on view of Luke Lemmens' weed sprayer train. Interior & exterior lights are separately controlled, the rooftop beacon works, and the sprayer arms move in and out using servos. Luke said he plans to add weathering and a fully detailed interior before the 2026 Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails RPM Meet.



Above: Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails RPM Meet leader & event organizer Dr Marty Megregian, DDS, MMR, is describing what he had to do to rescue, rejuvenate, and enhance some of his O scale models on display.

Above: It's not just freight cars and locomotives at the Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails RPM Meet. There were several displays on display, including this amazingly detailed example. *(continued on page 11)*

TRAVELS WITH FRED-2025 Prototype Rails RPM Meet (continued from page 10)



Left and Below: Railfanning the PR3 (Harbor Junction) Valley Falls local on Don Irace's HO scale Providence & Worcester model railroad.



Left and Below: Dennison Lubricants between Worcester and Valley Falls on Don Irace's HO scale Providence & Worcester model railroad.



Above and Right: Railfanning the PR3 (Harbor Junction) Valley Falls local as it switches cars at Univar on Don Irace's HO scale Providence & Worcester model railroad.

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Left: One of the many highly detailed street scenes on Al Sohl's MMR® On30 Western Bay model railroad.



Above: Layout Owner Al Sohl MMR® troubleshooting a coupler issue during an operating session on his On30 Western Bay model railroad.



Left: Chip Pecere working one of the staging yards on Al Sohl's MMR® On30 Western Bay model railroad.

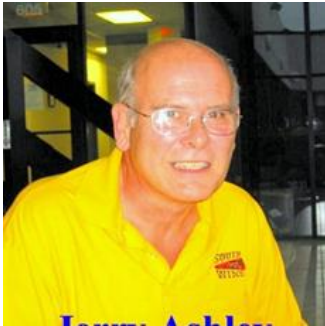
Right:
It's not all about trains at the Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails RPM Meet! Timing was in our favor to see the launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 during a break between presentations. There were a few low clouds in the area, but the rocket just punched right through them on its way to orbit.



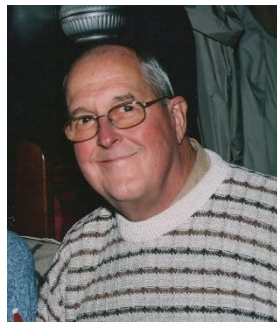
THE K&I IS MOVING TO INDIANA AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLUB

By K&I Media (The late Jack Diehl along with Ed Brennan and Mike Berry contributed to this article)

The K & I Model Railroad Club was formed to meet a specific need. In 1992, Division 8 of the NMRA had the opportunity to set up a model railroad Christmas display in one of the local malls but could not acquire a club layout for that purpose.



Jerry Ashley



Ray Rohmann

So, in winter of 1992-1993, a group of dedicated modelers met in the home of Jerry Ashley to form a modular railroad club that would always be ready to set up at various venues and whenever Division 8 required a layout. By the end of the first meeting the seeds of the club had been formed, and enthusiasm was running high.

A name had not been selected, and it was agreed by the founding members that there would be no bylaws and no dues, and the club would be called the “No Name Model Railroad Club.” Jerry Ashley and Ray Rohmann, who had the original idea for the club, invited Ron Montgomery, Jack Diehl, Gary Metcalf and Mike Berry to join.

During that winter, work began in Jerry's unheated garage on the construction of corner modules. Members also began building their personal modules in their homes and by spring, enough modules were finished to set them up at a festival just outside New Haven, Kentucky. And later that summer at a gym in New Haven.

We were officially launched and on our way!

By the time the Great American Train Show rolled into Louisville in January 1994, enough modules had been constructed that we were eager to show off the layout in competition. A name had been chosen for the club, the Kentucky & Indiana Model Railroad Club – affectionately known as K & I. We set up just inside the front door at GATS and were lucky enough to garner third place in voting against other well-established clubs. This won us \$100 which was a welcome addition to our meager treasury.

During the first eight years of the club's existence, the corners and the power packs, (this was before DCC), which all belonged to the club, were stored in the basements or garages of various members. Individual modules were transported to and from shows by their owners. At one time a small portion of the layout was set up in a member's basement so we could all get in some running time. This inconvenience didn't dampen our enthusiasm for model railroading. We set up at many malls, churches, train shows and swap meets. However, the members finally agreed it was time to find a permanent home to set up the layout for the members' enjoyment when it wasn't being shown at other venues.

In May 2002, space was found in an old automobile paint shop and the club happily accepted the offer to set up the layout on a permanent basis. We shared the space with Division 8 until September 2003 when we lost the lease.

In October 2003, we were fortunate to acquire a room in the NOVA Building on Bluegrass Parkway where we once again could set up the layout. During our 3½ year stay, we were in three different rooms, some for just a short time. In May 2007, the last room in the NOVA Building was leased and we were once again without a home. The layout was once again put in storage in members basements and garages.

Later, in September 2007, we were able to obtain space at the Old Buckner Firehouse. We were only supposed to have the space for 6 months. The building was supposed to be torn down to make way for an underpass under the CSX railroad tracks across the street. But we stayed over 9 years until early February 2017. The property had been transferred from Oldham County to the State because the 2 roadways involved with the underpass are state highways. The fire department had moved down the street to a new building. The new road was supposed to occupy the space up to a couple of feet from the front door of the old firehouse. *(continued on page 14)*

THE K&I IS MOVING TO INDIANA AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLUB *(continued from page 13)*

During that time, existing modules owned by the Club along with member modules were assembled into a semi-permanent sectional layout. New Club modules were also built and added to the layout. You can find some photos of the Old Buckner Firehouse layout on the *Club Media* page of our website or click this link – [Old Buckner Firehouse Layout](#)



While at the Old Buckner Firehouse, members assembled a new traveling layout to display at local train shows, libraries and other public events. Members even took the traveling layout to West Virginia a couple of times for an event.

Left: Old Buckner Firehouse layout.

And toward the end of our time in Buckner, the name of the Club was shortened to K & I Model Railroad Club and a logo and branding was established. The logo was designed by member Mike “DOC” Shane who also designed logos for several other members model railroads.

In January of 2017, we were informed by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet that we needed to vacate the Old Buckner Firehouse within 10 days. The old firehouse was finally scheduled to be torn down. It was decided at the time to tear down the main layout and store it in 2 PODS until we could find a new home.

And in fact, the building was torn down a few months later. But the underpass, although still planned, has not started construction as of 8 years later in 2025. We could have been there running trains all those years. You can see the end of the Old Buckner Firehouse also on the *Club Media* page of our website or click this link – [The Last Great Days of the Old Buckner Firehouse](#)

At the same time, we were ordered to vacate the Old Buckner Firehouse, February 2017, the traveling layout was due to be set up for a week at the Fern Creek Library. After the library show, member John Helton offered to allow the Club to set up the layout in an empty room he had just completed above his garage that he had just built for his own layout. We enjoyed John’s hospitality until we moved the traveling layout into our next location. We will always be indebted to John for his hospitality.

While we were homeless, we reorganized our Club as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. With this reorganization member dues and contributions to the Club became tax deductible. And we hoped being a registered non-profit organization would help us in negotiations for a new location.

We eventually moved the main layout out of the PODS into a storage space which saved some money each month before later moving to our new location. You can view some photos of moving days here – [Moving Days](#)

After we hurriedly moved out of the Old Buckner Firehouse, we immediately set about looking for a new home. We thought we would find a new location much sooner than we did. We knocked on a lot of doors including Oldham County, the cities of La Grange, Crestwood, Pewee Valley and Louisville. Many of the locations we looked at are still unrented today. We were trying to find a space with free or reduced rent. We were finally able to get some assistance from the City of Louisville Office of Housing & Community Development. We had inquired about vacant buildings around the city. They put us in touch with a building owner who offered us reduced market rent in exchange for building improvements we would make. But it wasn’t until the spring of 2019 that we were finally able to sign a 6-year lease on a 2,100 sq ft space at 4th and Winkler, just south of the U of L campus in Louisville.

Once the lease was signed, we started spending our meager saving on the agreed upon improvements – insulating the ceiling, installing interior wall studs with insulation, (the exterior walls were concrete block construction), building a restroom, and connecting a gas line to an existing ceiling heater.

When we moved to the new location, which we called K & I World Headquarter or WHQ, there was discussion on how we should utilize the new space. Start over from scratch and build around the walls OR utilize most of the existing modules in the new space and store or dispose of the modules we couldn’t use. The layout from Buckner was larger than *(continued on page 15)*

THE K&I IS MOVING TO INDIANA AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLUB *(continued from page 14)*

the new space. After much discussion, it was decided to use the old modules in a new arrangement but refurbish those modules as needed to construct a newly configured permanent sectional layout. You can view both the main layout and the traveling layout floor plan on the website under *CLUB INFO* or click this link – [Club Layouts](#)

A great deal of work was done by a very dedicated group of K & I members. You can see how it all went back together on the website under *CLUB MEDIA, K & I NEW Layout Construction*, or click this link – [K & I NEW Layout Construction](#)

During the time we were homeless, we still were displaying the traveling layout. Mostly with various branches of the Louisville Free Public Library. We kept making improvements to the layout including signaling and extensive plug and play lighting. At one time, it was easy to move the layout for a 1-day display. However, the combination of an aging membership and increasing layout complexity necessitated a minimum display at a single venue of at least one week – 10 days to 2 weeks was even better. Of course, when the global pandemic came along, traveling with the layout was out of the question.

We continued to make scenic improvements to the traveling layout at WHQ. After the pandemic it was decided we would no longer seek venues to travel to. With a 5-year lease and a new home, community members could come to us, we reasoned. Once both layouts were set up and running at WHQ, we were open to the public on the 1st Saturday of each month. We also tried to have a spring, fall and Christmas Open House where we would be open for several days at a time. The response was very good. We had many visitors and even recruited some new members.

We didn't have a summer open house because WHQ lacked air conditioning. It was sometimes too hot to run trains in July and August. We had the same issue at the Old Buckner Fire House. As we entered 2023 and the 4th year of our lease, post pandemic and with a steady membership and a more secure financial footing, we began in earnest to see if air conditioning was possible. Of course, it would be out of the question without a lease extension. And a dues increase or a one-time contribution from members might be required.

While all this was being weighed, the owner of Clark Station Shopping Center contacted us about a space at 305 East Lewis & Clark Parkway in Clarksville. With a much-reduced market rent agreement in exchange for the K & I agreeing to be open to the public on a regular basis to share model railroading with the public, especially the Clarksville Community, an agreement was reached, and a long-term lease was signed. The owner was willing to completely remodel the space for our needs including new electrical, new plumbing, new interior walls, new restrooms, and a storage room. And the space was twice as large as WHQ. And best of all, it came with air conditioning and plenty of parking.

So that's how a move to Clarksville and the next chapter for the K & I came about. The space is currently under construction and should be ready for us to occupy sometime in February or March 2025. We'll have the 2 existing HO scale layouts plus we'll be adding a 3rd HO scale layout left to the Club by the late Don Copley, one of our members.

You can view some photos of New World Headquarters, NWHQ, construction here – [NWHQ Construction](#)



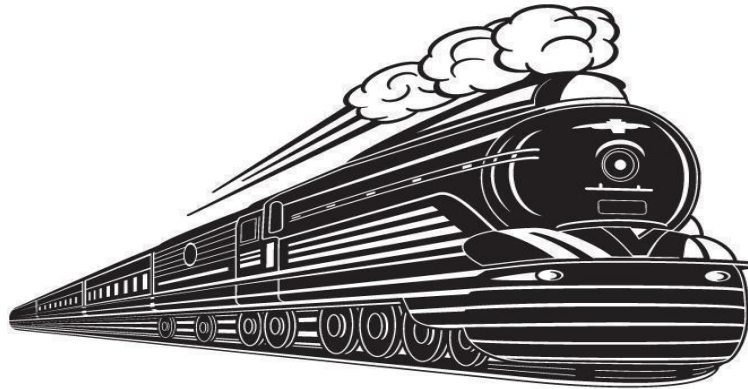
In a couple of months after we move the layouts and get them set up and running again, there will be a Grand Opening. Once we are open again, we expect to have regular open hours at least 2 days a week. And we'll continue to have some unscheduled open hours when members are at the Club and for special events.

Left: NWHQ

Everyone is welcome at the K & I when we are open. But it is necessary to pay to play. You can watch trains for FREE. But if you wish to run trains, you must pay dues to be a member of the K & I. We are a 100% NMRA Club. And we welcome new members of any skill level. If you are new to the hobby, we can help you get started.

From some very modest beginnings and some hard times, a first-class model railroad club has evolved because of a great deal of dedicated time, effort and money by our many members working together as a club. As Membership Chairman Stan White has said, "Sometimes we might forget the club is not a building, but the body of the combined membership." The New K & I Model Railroad Club World Headquarters will be a first-class venue. We can't wait to share it with everyone. Watch for the announcement of our Grand Opening in Clarksville.

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ADVANCE TICKETS



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RPM-EAST

RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELER SEMINAR

RPM-East prototype modeler event in metro-Pittsburgh, PA

The 2025 RPM-East returns to the Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, PA, March 21 & 22! The location of our long-running railroad prototype modeler meet is just 40 miles southeast of downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Make plans to rekindle your modeling efforts!

Thirty-eight modelers and historians are scheduled to speak at RPM-East. Many presentation titles have been posted to the RPM-East website. A tentative presentation schedule will be posted to the website in late February.

Early bird registration is only \$40 (until February 28th). RPM-East is sponsored by Division 2, MCR-NMRA. Registration forms, presentation details, op session layouts, and participating vendors can be reviewed at the RPM-East website:

http://hansmanns.org/rpm_east/index.htm

There will be plenty of action over March 21 & 22.

- two days of prototype and model presentations
- a large display room to share your modeling efforts and learn new techniques
- a variety of vendors selling goods for prototype modeling
- Thursday operating sessions on local model railroads
- Sunday model railroad layouts to visit

There are several hotel options in nearby New Stanton, PA, just off of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. This Google Maps link can help you find lodging.

<https://goo.gl/maps/Kf55KEzfHJSMmaEV7>

Gather your models and make plans to attend the 2025 RPM-East prototype modeler event in Youngwood, PA!

Eric Hansmann

RPM-East Publicity and Web Guy

eric@hansmanns.org



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MORE INFORMATION

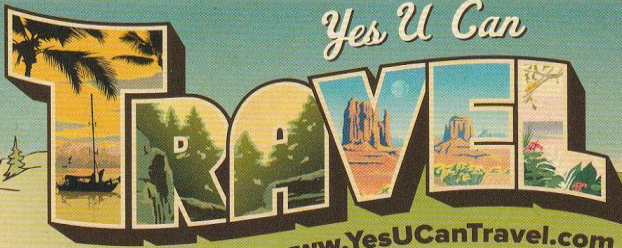
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2025 National Convention

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CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -
Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. ** We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. ** This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. ** Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. ** We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. ** The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. ** We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. ** We expect to have at least 60 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. ** We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

<https://nmra2025.com/>

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THE PIE CARD

Division 8-MCR-NMRA
 Box 189
 Eastwood, KY 40018-0189
 502-653-5371

Editor: Bob Dawson
 Asst. Editor: Fred Soward
 Publisher: Ron Ellison

The Pie Card is published twelve times a year by Division 8 of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid Central Region.

Please address all correspondence to Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Dr., Louisville, KY 40214, or email: 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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