

The Pie Card

Volume 59, January 2025, Number 1

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison



Happy New Year! It's time for Model Railroading in 2025. But before we close out 2024, let's talk for a moment about some significant items in December.

1. We donated \$250 to the Holy Family Parish St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Program. The funds are used to help families in need not only at Christmas time but also year-round.
2. We donated \$250 additional dollars to the Kentucky Railroad Museum. This was in addition to the \$500 donation we made in July of 2024 when we picnicked at the KRM. We let you know but we'll remind you again that the KRM became an NMRA Sustaining Member in 2024.
3. Our Clerk Rick Maloney was awarded the 2024 Silver Spike at the Christmas Party. Well deserved. Congratulations Rick!
4. And thank you to Russ Weis for making all the arrangements for the Christmas Party at the Corner Café and to Fred Soward for putting together the 2024 Year in Review program after dinner. A good time was had by all who attended!

TIME TABLE

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

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

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 22, 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 second Saturdays of the month.*

One additional mention. In August of 2023, Division 8 donated a TV to the Jeffersontown Branch Library. A plaque acknowledging the donation was supposed to be placed next to the TV to remind us and others who utilize the meeting room. That never happened. So, when we had the Silver Spike plaque made, we also had the plaque made to place next to the TV. It looks like this →

By the time you visit the library next time it will be in place next to the TV.

And now moving on to 2025. Guess what's right around the corner? Good guess. The Spring Train Show & Sale. And as always, we need your help to put on the show. So, make sure the date is in your calendar and plan to volunteer to help at the January Membership Meeting or volunteer with your club or with one of the layouts.

And think about attending the Mid Central Region Convention in May at Columbus, Ohio. Early Bird pricing ends February 1st. Save yourself \$10. And then in July the NMRA National Convention in Novi, Michigan just west of Detroit. Both are just up the road apiece. The National is being put on by many of the folks who helped put together Indy Junction 2022. And as the marketing says, "*It will be a Convention like no other.*" Exact dates are conveniently located in the Timetable on the Division 8 website [Division 8 Website](#) under *Timetable* for these events and all our other 2025 events. So much to do in 2025. And there's much more. So, stay tuned.



JANUARY 2025 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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
November	Displays (no size limit)
December	Highway vehicles

For December, the 2024-2025 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest was an all-virtual contest due to having the Division 8 Christmas Party rather than a meeting. There were four entries in the highway vehicles category. Honorable mention goes to Bob Frankrone for "Ready for Service."

Third place goes to John Helton for "Early 1950's White Freightliner Bubble Nose and 34' Fluted Side Fruehauf Van Trailer." Second place goes to Bob Kuchler for his "Trailways Bus." First place goes to Randall Griggs for his "LG&E Service Truck and Trailer." Congratulations go to each of our highway vehicle modelers!

The revised point totals are now: Bob Frankrone with 10; Russ Weis with 8; Ed Brennan, Bob Kuchler, and Steve Lasher with 7 each; Rick Maloney with 5; Bruce DeMaeyer, Randall Griggs, and Eric Waggoner with 4 each; Paul Downs with 3; Al Goodman, John Helton, and Fred Soward with 2 each; and George Ronn and Barbara Soward with 1 each.

The January Contest is **FREIGHT CARS**

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

- January 4th - First day to submit entries
- January 11th - Last day to submit entries
- January 16th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- January 16th & 17th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 17th
- January 18th - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- February 1st - First day to submit February contest entries,

NON-STEAM MOTIVE POWER (Diesel, Electric, Gasoline)



JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

The January Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday January 18, 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. Charlie Buccola is presenting, "Railway Preservation from Full Scale to Model to the Printed Word."

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

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

To enter the January Contest, use the **Contest Entry Form** on the Division 8 website

here → [Contest](#) and just follow the simple instructions included in the form.

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 (contest photos on page 3)

We will publish the Contest timeline dates each month in **The Pie Card**.

MEMBER WELFARE

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

This month we have had two folks in and out of the hospital: Tom Guenther, and Ed Brennan's wife JoAnn. Both are home recovering nicely and both received get well and gift cards.

Sadly, one of our members, Wes Gardner, lost his wife Anna O'Neal. A sympathy card will be sent and a donation will be made in her name.

Our Member Welfare Fund for the fiscal year remains: \$100 anonymous donation and a \$200 donation from the Charlie Keeling family. As always, let us know if you hear of a member in need.

(continued to column 2)

DECEMBER CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

**FIRST PLACE**

Left: Randy Griggs' S Scale "LG&E Service Truck & Trailer."

Randy modified an S Scale truck and scratch built the body using prototype photos for reference. The trailer was modified and detailed from an S Scale model. The backhoe was modified from an HO scale model to represent a smaller piece of equipment. *(The Editor is very familiar with the prototype having been a Safety Specialist for the LG&E Gas Operations Department.)*

SECOND PLACE

Right: Bob Kuchler's N Scale "Trailways Bus."

This is an N scale cast resin kit from Brian Fedoroff. Bob assembled the model including the interior. He used canopy glue for the windows and headlights. He painted it and applied the kit-supplied decals.

**THIRD PLACE**

Below: John Helton's HO "Early 1950's 'Bubblenose' with a Fruehauf Trailer." John kit-bashed a Sylvan Scale Models tractor resin kit, adding a bumper, shift lever, and other details. He painted the trailer, modified the suspension, and added landing gear from Classic Metal Works with a scratch built crank and handle. Paper mud flaps were added to finish the model.

**HONORABLE MENTION**

Above: Bob Frankrone's HO "Ready for Service."

This is an unmodified cement truck model.

2024 DIVISION 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Photos by Barbara Soward unless noted otherwise



Below: Fred Soward MMR® introduced new member Steven Blanford.



Photograph by Fred Soward



Photograph by Fred Soward



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2024 DIVISION 8 CHRISTMAS PARTY (continued from page 4)

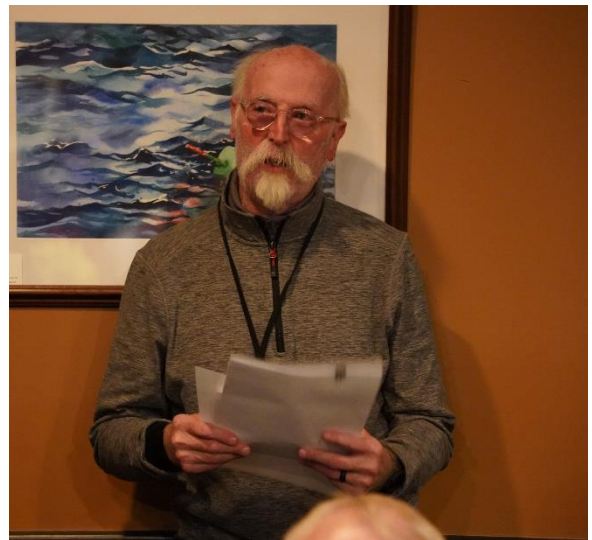


Left: Square plates or round plates? (You had to have been there.)



Left: Following dinner and the awarding of the Silver Spike (see below), Superintendent Ron Ellison introduced the night's program, "The Year in Review."

Board members and committee chairs narrated a slide program depicting Division activities and member successes during the year.



2024 SILVER SPIKE AWARD

The Silver Spike is awarded to a member in recognition of their exemplary service to the NMRA, MCR, and Division 8.

Stan White presented the award to this year's recipient, Rick Maloney MMR® (right), at the Christmas Dinner.

This was a complete surprise to Rick, made all the more special because Rick is the Silver Spike Chairman.

Congratulations Rick.

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

Tom Guenthner continues to work on his “new” layout. The trackwork is pretty much all in place. He’s still shuffling some of it around to improve a couple of the industrial switching areas. Bob Dawson and I are hoping to get over to his place to start working on an operating scheme before March. We might even be able to do some basic operating sessions there this spring.

Rick Maloney tells me he is very close to finishing his latest round of revisions to his layout. When that’s complete, Bob Dawson & I will spend some quality time with Rick, figuring out how we’ll move forward with operating sessions on his layout as well.

A few delays (Trains at the Tree, Division 8 work, Mid Central Region work, and NMRA BoD work) set me back on my plan to get things moving forward on our own layout this month, but there has been some progress. My grandfather was 100% correct – busier now in retirement than I ever was when I was getting a paycheck.

Those temporary bridges I wrote about maybe putting in last month? Two of ‘em are in. For the third one, which is actually the first bridge on the Santa Cruz & Felton railway as it leaves Watsonville Junction Yard, it’ll be two Exactrail plate girder bridges. Working slowly toward getting that setup with some basic scenery and bridge piers & abutments before I lay it in place. Next step is putting down some more sub-roadbed around Davenport and going down the back of the layout toward Felton along the San Lorenzo River and into the Santa Cruz Mountains. A trestle, a plate girder bridge, a grade crossing, a couple of fairly short tunnels, and eventually a whole bunch of very tall redwoods. We might just get it all up and working by the time you-know-who visits after the 2025 NMRA National Convention in Novi, Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White, Membership Relations Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 130 active members. We had five new members (Steven Blanford, Michael Dowell, Jim Mayer, Ottis Presley, Warren Shaw). We had four renewals (Bruce DeMaeyer, Karen Fowler, Bob Frankrone, Lamont Williams). Five expired members (Herman Weir, Robert Schweiss, Bill Roberts, Joe Mason, Steven Linn).

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, Achievement Program Chairman

This past September and October, following nine months of staff development, I had the privilege of serving on the staff of Wood Badge 14-205-24. This is the advanced leadership school for Adult Scout Leaders. It was my third, and likely last, opportunity to serve. The younger leaders are incredible. The reason for sharing this is a slogan we used – “Feedback is a gift.” Actually, it is part of one of the key themes – Growing. If we are to grow as modelers we must believe in life-long learning, seek feedback from others, and embrace change with positivity.

The hobby is changing rapidly – LED’s, Arduinos, Digital Command Control, Layout Command Control, digital printing, Artificial Intelligence as an aid to research, etc. Fred Soward and I were recently evaluating a low relief structure, a terminal warehouse, for a merit award. It readily qualified. Still, feedback was given and received. There were pallets, a pallet jack, excellent lighting, safety striping, etc. Reflecting on my UPS days, I wondered which door I should deliver to? Fred noticed there was no building address on the back of the building. Feedback is a gift. A few modest changes will transform this very good model into an even better model. All three of us learned lessons. Looking forward to seeing *your* modeling.

FRED SOWARD ELECTED LEAD NMRA DIRECTOR

Our Assistant Superintendent and NMRA Central District Director Fred Soward MMR® has been elected as the NMRA Board of Directors Lead Director. There will be a transition period in handing over the responsibilities from the current Lead Director, Mike Arnold (Atlantic Director) to Fred. The Lead Director is elected annually by all of the directors. Congratulations Fred.

OPEN YOUR HOUSE*By Russ Weis*

In the October Pie Card I wrote how hosting an open house was a good way to show off your layout, and a great way to help members stay connected. It also gives you a deadline to get those projects done you've been procrastinating on. I know it certainly worked for me as I finished a number of things on my "to do" list before opening my layout.

I was pleased how many members attended; many who had never seen the layout before. A lot of questions were answered, so I know that helped those members.

Rick Maloney and Stan White are hosting their open houses in early 2025, so you have plenty of time to say "yes" to your open house and get those projects finished.

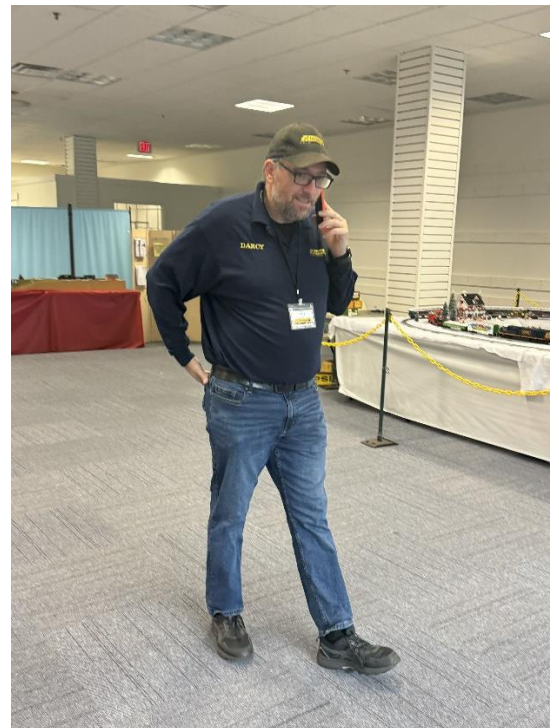
Let me know when you would like to host yours, and we'll announce it in the Pie Card. We will only give your address and any parking instructions at the meeting so there will only be Division 8 members attending. You can let me know at a meeting or you can send a message by email to: division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com, or call or text: (502) 653-5371 with your contact information, and I will get in touch with you.

January is always iffy due to weather - - February and March are taken, however, the rest of the year is wide open.

Looking forward to seeing your layout in the future.

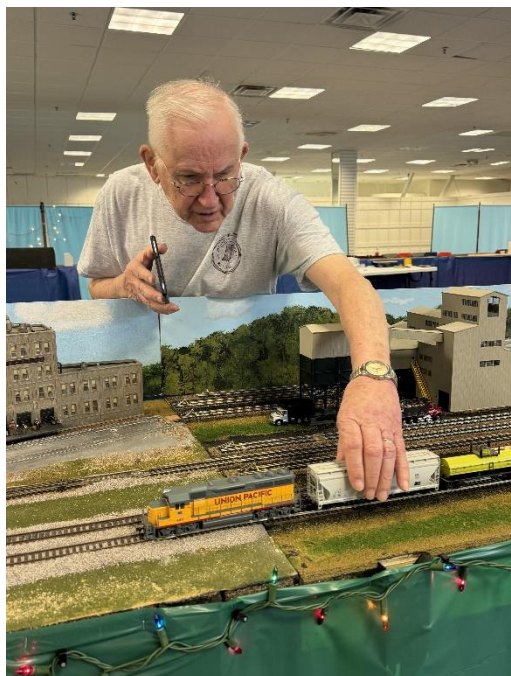
TRAINS AT THE TREE CHRISTMAS EDITION 2024*By Fred Soward MMR®*

The Southern Indiana Railroad Club, assisted by the Division 8 MCR, NMRA, and the K & I Model Railroad Club, the Louisville Connecting Lines club, and other individuals hosted "Trains at the Tree Christmas 2024 Edition." Several train layouts were included and were open over three weekends beginning November 29 and ending December 15.



Above: Event coordinator Darcy Elliott
"coordinating."

(Continued to page 8)



Left: Fred Soward putting his MMR® (Master Model Railroader) skills to good use at “Trains at The Tree.”

NORMA DESMOND'S BACK (with apologies to the movie "Sunset Boulevard")

By Steve Lasher, photos from Steve



whistle blew, she announced that, like Norma Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard," to all in hearing distance for miles around, that she was still "BIG" - it was railroading that had grown small. Words fail me to try and describe the joy that arrived with her that Friday.

I chose to ride in one of the two "Elephant Cars" that the FWRHS purchased from the auction of Barnum and Bailey's sale of rolling stock after the circus permanently closed. The FWRHS personnel with the experience of their rebuilding by the society say there was definitely elephant aroma left in the cars when they received them. To me, they were one of the best excursion rolling stock ideas I've ever encountered. They rode on heavy duty, six-wheel drop equalized trucks so, they literally rode like Pullmans. I guess I'd have to say those elephants certainly traveled in style and first class.

As "Windy", I could go on and on about the experience, but I can sum it up by saying that getting to ride behind the grand old lady 765, on a beautiful fall day in northern Indiana/southern Michigan was sublime. Ahh...and oh, that whistle!

Right:

Steve with "Norma" uh, Nickel Plate #765.

Below: Posing for her close-up.

I was lucky enough to attend the Nickel Plate Road's historical society's annual convention last weekend (10/18 and 19th, 2024) in Angola, Indiana. Why Angola you may ask? Well, because that's where it could be held close to where the Fort Wayne historical society could run an excursion behind NKP 765. Now, the trackage is ex-NYC but, hey, we won't let that stand in the way.

The excursion actually left from Pleasant Lake, Indiana which is a small town a few miles south of Angola but without the resources to support a gathering like the NKPHTS convention.

A beautiful, old, partially restored NYC depot in Pleasant Lake was where the excursion originated. We had a bit of a wait and, a plus, as the Indiana Northeast Railroad ran an empty grain train north ahead of the excursion.

After a pause to let the anticipation grow, NKP 765 arrived. When her



TRACKSIDE IN DULUTH, MN

By Fred Soward MMR®, photos by the author unless noted otherwise

My grandson Sawyer Ramsdell and I did a bit of Railfanning in Duluth, MN, when Barbara & I were visiting over the Thanksgiving break. In sub-freezing weather. I'm not sure what the wind chill was that day becuz I really didn't want to know. Even though it was crazy cold at the south end of Lake Superior, it was a great day to rail fan! Here's a sampling of some of the locomotives we'd never seen out and about before that day.



Left and Below:

CP2237, a GP20C/DRS-20, was sitting idling in Canadian Pacific's Rice Point yard.



Right:

We found this GE 40-tonner sitting behind a chain link fence outside the Ash Grove Duluth Terminal facility, located across the street at the end of CP's Rice Point yard.



(continued to page 11)

TRACKSIDE IN DULUTH, MN (continued from page 10)



Left:

MEC 7350, a GE 80-ton switcher, was sitting all by itself, way down a "no trespassing" road on Riverland AG Group's Duluth Storage property.

Below

Barbara Soward took this photo of SW1 ILSX 8758 as we were crossing a tall bridge leaving Duluth, MN, and entering Superior, WI. Hiding behind the SW1 is SW1200 ILSX 2117. They're both located at CHS (Cenex Harvest States) Superior across the bay from where we took the photos in Duluth, MN. SW1 ILSX 15 in the foreground, started life as an L&N unit in 1941.



Right
Grandson Sawyer captured this photo from the bridge coming into Duluth, MN, but a week before we arrived. Interesting to us to see this lash up of KSC, BNSF, and NS power.



A TRIP BY THE NORSEMAN

By Mark Norman MMR®, photos from Mark

This past November, The Norsemen, myself, Sean, and Waylon went on a Vik to Ohio. Vik is the Old Norse word for trip or conquest. The first stop was EnterTrainment Junction, the second was to the Krohn Conservatory.

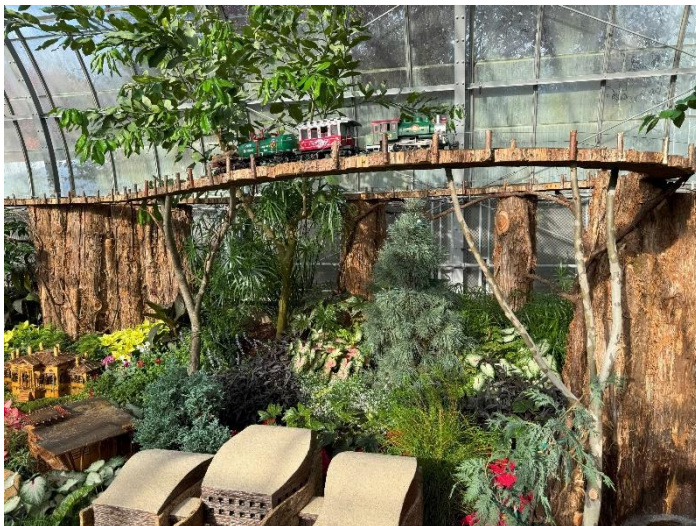


Left: The Norseman on site. EnterTrainment Junction is closing on January 5, 2025. *(Editor: word is that it has been purchased and will be taken apart and be transported to Las Vegas, NV where it will be set up at a future time.)*



Right: Waylon taking a closer look.

The Irwin M. Krohn Conservatory in Eden Park, Cincinnati, Ohio.

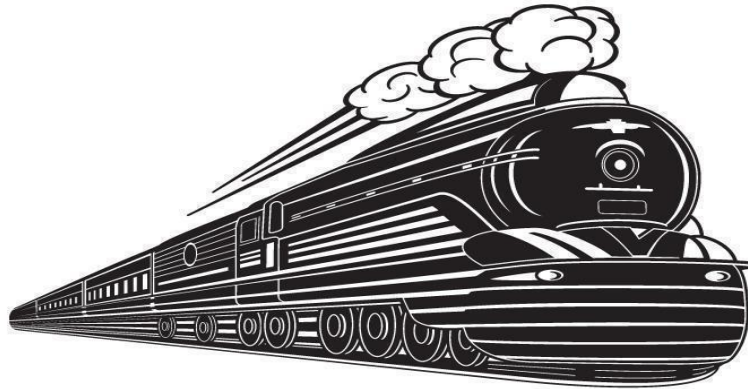


Left: One of its features is a G-Gauge train layout that runs through the conservatory.

Right: Thomas makes his appearance.



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ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/Spring2025TrainShow>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE





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- SHORT TERM SPACE LEASING
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- RAILFANNING 8 TO 8 DAILY
- AND MORE TO COME

MORE INFORMATION

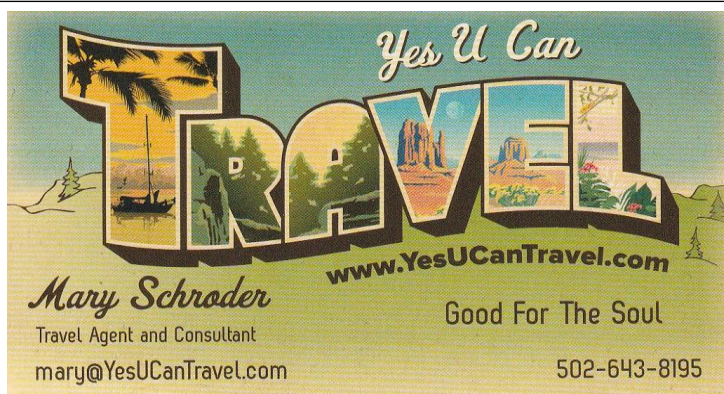
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NMRA National Convention

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2025 National Convention

STATION No. VI

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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/>

Mid-Central Region Annual Convention

BUCKEYE EXPRESS 2025

May 15- 18, 2025

Early Bird Fare: \$70.00

Full Fare: \$80.00 (After February 1, 2025)

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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THE PIE CARD

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

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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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