

The Pie Card

Volume 59, September 2025, Number 9

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

Call for Volunteers - Division 8 Train Show & Sale

The Division 8 Train Show & Sale is fast approaching and November 15, 2025, will be here before we know it. We invite members to volunteer for the Show. With an array of dealers, layouts, and engaging activities for all ages, the show promises to be another vibrant celebration of model railroading. To ensure its success, we rely on a dedicated team of volunteers.

Volunteering at the Train Show & Sale offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow model railroaders, contribute to the local community, and share your enthusiasm for the hobby. Volunteers help create memorable experiences for visitors and families, enjoy behind-the-scenes insights into event operations, and play an essential role in bringing the show to life.

Volunteer Roles Available

- **Dealer Assistance:** Help dealers unload and arrange merchandise at assigned tables, answer questions, and provide support for a smooth setup. Volunteers should arrive at 7 AM.
- **Door Prize Tables:** Encourage visitors to complete door prize cards upon entry and help Bob Dawson check in donations from dealers and members.
- **General Event Support:** Provide assistance throughout the day with dealer and visitor directions, questions, and special needs support.
- **Tear-down Crew:** After the show, help with trash removal, table cleaning, and restoring the venue to its original condition. Note: Setup is handled by Holy Family Parish staff.

To volunteer, simply indicate your preferred role and availability. Sign up at the September, October or November Membership Meetings, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com, or call/text (502) 653-5371. All volunteers will receive confirmation and reminders as the event approaches.

Your involvement is vital to the success of the Train Show & Sale, Division 8's sole fundraising event. By volunteering, you help foster a welcoming atmosphere for train enthusiasts and strengthen ties within our community.

Please see the flyer in this edition of The Pie Card for further information.

All aboard and let's make this year's Train Show & Sale a memorable and successful event!



TIME TABLE

Sep 3-6, National Narrow Gauge Convention, Collinsville, IL.

Sep 20, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Sep 27, Sat 10AM-2PM, Southern Indiana Train Show and Swap Meet, First Presbyterian Church, Jeffersonville, IN.

Oct 11-12 Division 7 Cincinnati Train & Trade Show.

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

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

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

Dec 6, Sat 4:30PM, Div 8 Christmas Party, Corner Café, Lyndon, KY.

SEPTEMBER 2025 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

September	Photos (model) and photos (prototype)
October	Steam locomotives
November	Displays (no size limit)
December	Highway vehicles
January	Freight cars
February	Non-steam motive power
March	Structures
April	Passenger cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open loads
July	NO CONTEST
August	MOW equipment

For August 2025, we began the 2025-2026 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest year with the competition for Maintenance of Way Equipment. There were four model entries, and everyone was a winner due to a tie for third place. Our third-place winners were Ed Brennan MMR® for his L&N work train and Bob Frankrone for his L&N 200T crane and tender.

Second place went to Craig Hatter for his Penn Central single track Russell snowplow. First place went to Steve Lasher for "Somebody's got to have the right stuff." Kudos to each of our maintenance of way modelers!

Here are the initial point totals: Steve Lasher with 4, Craig Hatter with 3, and Ed Brennan MMR® and Bob Frankrone with 2 each.

For September, the 2025-2026 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest will continue with two separate contests: for Photos (Model) and for Photos (Prototype), with separate entries for each, and separate votes for each. Photos may be color or black and white, originally taken digitally or on film. Only one photo per entry please.

Here are a few things to be aware of as the new model contest year kicks off:

- Clearly identify on the model contest entry form any prototype photos submitted.
- List the scale of the model entered on the model contest entry form.
- Enter one time per category (individual entries may include more than one related model).
- Remember that the January contest focuses on freight car modeling and the June contest focuses on open load modeling.

(continued to column 2)



SEPTEMBER MEETING INFORMATION

The August Division 8 meeting is **2 PM Saturday, September 20** 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. Walter Vail is presenting, "A Tour of Show Case Miniatures."

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

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

- September 6th - First day to submit entries
- September 13th - Last day to submit entries
- September 18th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- September 18th & 19th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 19th
- September 20th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- October 4th - First day to submit October contest entries **STEAM LOCOMOTIVES**

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

To enter the September Contest, use the **REVISED Contest Entry Form** on the Division 8 website here → [Contest](#) and just follow the simple instructions included in the form. Entering the Contest has never been easier.

Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions, comments, or need help, email division8.mcr-nmra@gmail.com

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

MEMBER WELFARE

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

During the past two months (vacation!) we had one member hospitalized - Rick Maloney. He is doing much better now.

And, as always, please let us know if you hear of any member in the hospital or with a death in the family. The Member Welfare Fund resets for the new fiscal year.

AUGUST CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

Photos by the Modelers



FIRST PLACE (left)

Steve Lasher's HO scale "Somebody's Got to Have the Right Stuff."

Steve kit-bashed this model beginning with a Water Level Kit from Central Hobby Supply. The model was detailed with a variety of tools from different manufacturers. They are all things that would be used on a real wrecker.

SECOND PLACE (right)

Craig Hatter's HO scale "Penn Central Single track Russell Snowplow."

This is a Walthers Single Track Russell Snowplow painted for Penn Central 60007. The model has been weathered with sprays, washes, powders, and Pan Pastels. Wheels and trucks were removed, washed, dull coted, weathered with sprays, and washes.



THIRD PLACE

Ed Brennan MMR® and Bob Frankrone tied for third place.

Below: Ed's HO scale "L&N Work Train."



It took three photos to show Ed's complete contest entry. The locomotive is a Mantua diecast kit-built (not Tyco) 0-4-0. The support coal tender and crane are Athearn models. The boom car is a Walthers kit. The water tender is from Athearn. The two bunk cars are Walthers, and the caboose is from Bachmann. The locomotive and cars were painted and lettered for the L&N and weathered.

(continued on page 4)

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

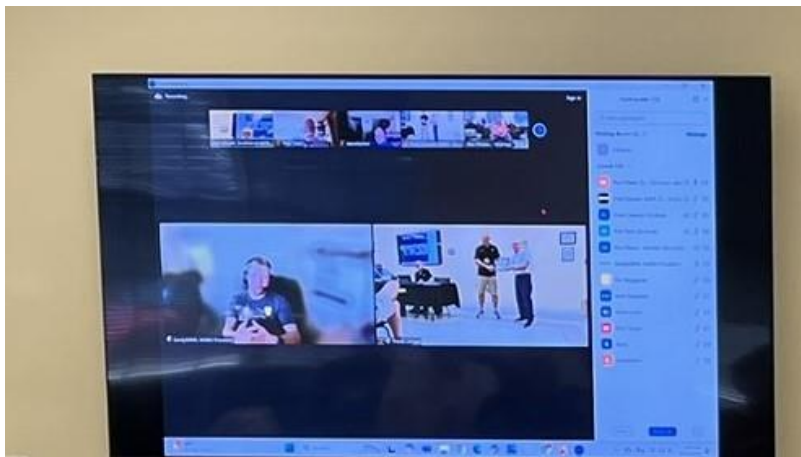
The other Third place winner was Bob Frankrone.



Above: Bob Frankrone's HO "L&N 200-ton crane and tender." This is an old Athearn blue-box undecorated kit that Bob painted, assembled, decaled, weathered, and added a few details.

AUGUST MEETING PHOTOS

Photos by Barbara Soward unless noted otherwise



CONGRATULATIONS RUSS WEIS

Left:

NMRA President Gordy Robinson MMR® joined us on Zoom from Scotland to recognize Russ Weis for being an NMRA member for 25 years. (Gordy is on the split screen to the left).

Photo by Bob Dawson

Right:

NMRA Central District Director Fred Soward MMR® presented Russ with his 25 year Membership Certificate.

(continued on page 5)



AUGUST MEETING PHOTOS (continued on page 4)



Left:

Charlie Keeling Model Contest Chairman Barry Christensen presented Bob Frankrone with his certificate and \$75 Scale Reproductions Gift Card for taking Second Place in the 2024-25 Model Contest.

Right:

Fred Soward MMR® presented the Back to Basics Segment of the meeting, "Roadways and Signs" followed by a short break.

Photo by Bob Dawson



Left:

Following the break, Russ Weis gave a presentation on "Better Model Contest Photographs."

For a summary of the meeting activities, see the Meeting Report on the next page.



FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

A trip to Minnesota and a trip to West Virginia last month. The first to visit family and the second to visit fellow model railroaders. Barbara & I did a bit of railfanning on the first trip while Darcy Elliott, Jackson Thomas, Ron Ellison, and I ran a bunch of trains on three different layouts on the second trip.

- If you've been following along with Bob Kuchler's MMR® progress he's been posting to Facebook, you'll already know he's been making great progress with the newest sections of his layout. I'm hoping he'll wrap up soon so we can run some trains!
- Chris Broughton MMR® has also posted some interesting work on Facebook. N scale vehicles. Most of us would struggle with putting the same level of detail into HO scale vehicles, but Chris is doing it all in N scale.
- We had one new operator on Tom Guenther's layout last month. Well, not really "new operators," but new to running trains on Tom's layout - Brad Joseph from the St Louis area who also stopped by to visit Russ Weis' layout and the K&I Model Railroad Club.
- While July was a track-laying record month because I laid down 65 feet of track, August was also a track-laying record month, but for a different reason. Just six inches of track went down on the Homabed. There was just way too much travel and NMRA BoD work that had to be completed last month, so trackwork on the layout took a back seat. However, I did get three temporary/stand-in buildings completed.

Remember me writing "Stay Tuned" for the past two months? Well, unfortunately, there's been a delay. Because we didn't feel it was ready to "go live." So, wait just a bit longer and it'll be here before you know it. Certainly, before the November Train Show & Sale!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Member Relations Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 152 active members. We had one new member: Bobby Pumphrey. We had seven renewals: James Feeney II, Rick Geerts, Jim Mayer, Mark Norman, Theodore Rauhut, Brenda Stewart, Russ Weis. Two expired members: Wilson & Kate Fryar.

AUGUST MEETING REPORT

By Rick Maloney MMR® Division 8 Clerk

The Division 8 August Membership Meeting was held on Saturday August 16, 2025 at the Jeffersontown branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. This was a hybrid meeting with 25 members present, 2 guests present, 10 members on Zoom, and 1 guest on Zoom. Superintendent Ron Ellison called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. He welcomed new member Richard "Rick" Usery and a guest Stan Perry, a former Division 8 member. He also recognized member Duke Green, Superintendent of the Southern Indiana Railroad Club, who was in attendance.

Ron then turned the meeting over to Gordy Robinson MMR®, the NMRA President, who joined us from Scotland on Zoom. Gordy, with the help of Fred Soward MMR®, presented Russ Weis with his 25 Year NMRA Membership Certificate.

Barry Christensen presented Bob Frankrone with his certificate and prize for taking second place in the 2024-25 Charlie Keeling Model Contest.

Ron Ellison asked for volunteers for upcoming TS&S on Saturday November 15, 2025.

Russ Weis announced that next month Walter Veil will present us with a tour of Showcase Miniatures. He also asked for members to open their layouts for tours.

Fred Soward MMR® presented the Back to Basics "Roadways and Signs" followed by a short break.

Following the break, Russ gave a presentation on "Better Model Contest Photographs. The meeting concluded at 3:37PM.

The minutes for the August Meeting are in the Members Only section of the Division 8 Website.

EVOLUTION TO RESOLUTION

By Duke Green, photos by the author unless indicated otherwise



Duke Green, photo by Fred Soward

I grew up hearing my dad on road trips count how many units a train would have. We lived in Albuquerque (yeah, I can still spell it) and would make annual driving trips to Houston, so there was lots of freight on those US Highways that used to parallel the railroads. I can't blame it on being too young, but I never really paid attention to what types of locos they were (all diesel, I still don't), or what road names they were. They were just a collection of neat looking rolling stuff. My grandfather worked for the Cotton Belt RR (St Louis Southwestern) for 60 years. Not that I paid that much attention to that either, one of my life's few regrets. When I was about 9 years old dear ol' Dad built me a 4' x 8' double loop that folded up against the garage wall, but the first time things refused to run right, well, you know. Said all that to say this, I missed out on a lot of lore that I wish I knew now. My grandfather would have seen the move from steam to diesel; there have been many hours I spent wondering what he knew. The lesson here is to listen when you can.

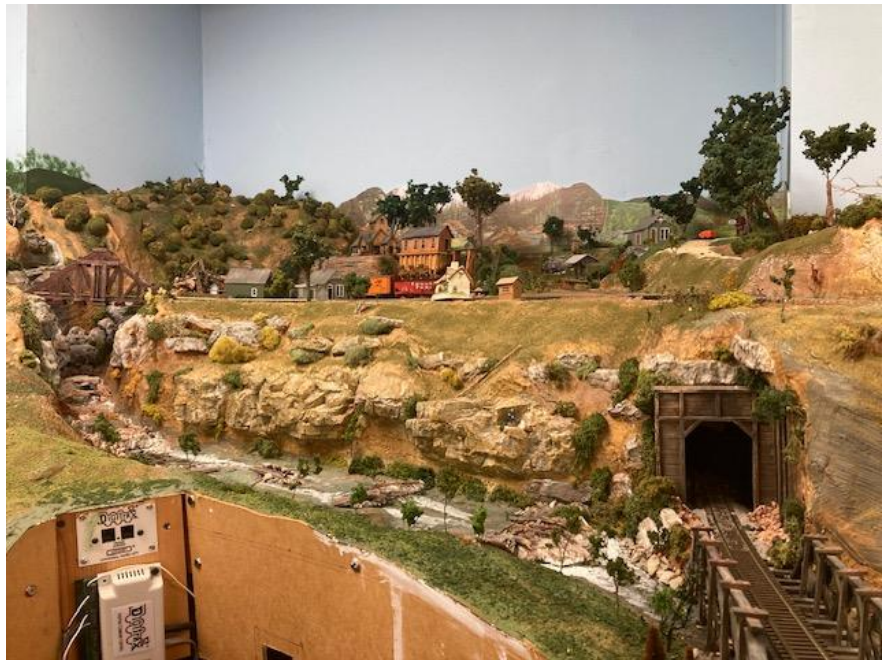
I've been model railroading in earnest for about 16 to 18 years. Had a couple of box sets, circle of track, loco and a few cars, set 'em up on the kitchen table for as long as I could, then started toying with the idea of a real layout. We had moved into a house with a full basement, so it followed, if not now, when?

I bought every book I could on the subject, even ones I never needed. Bought a few pieces of rolling stock and went to work. Made an 8' X 12' free stander with lots of grades and sidings which never worked well. Note to self: put sidings and spurs on level track. After painting myself into a corner, so to speak, I decided to get serious.

So, lots of things happened at once: track study, wiring study, joining the Southern Indiana Railroad model railroad club, buying some cars and buildings, and made the layout room a finished place. I was so proud of my neat trim walls and suspended ceiling, showed it to the wife. "Why didn't you finish the floor?" was her response. Talk about a kick in the crossroads... Turned out to be a good suggestion, though.

I have yet to complete it. I heard a quote from George Lucas (Star Wars creator for you lucky folks too young to know), "You never really finish a film, you just stop working on it." Must have been good enough for me. I still have some scenery gaps I will fill in, but I ended up with a bent loop, several sidings, many spurs, some grade, turntables, a switchback and some tunnels. Passing and meets

opportunities a plenty. Seems I dabbled in about everything, but only once. I would weather a boxcar, but then wasn't interested in doing more. Put decals on a few cars, but lost interest. Built a couple of intricate structures, then doing more didn't blow my skirt up. Along the way, would buy some neat new stuff to do something new, then when done, put it away and be thru with it. I've always admired the folks who work on one, or a few, thing(s), get very good at it, and keep producing, getting better all the while. The purists, who can point at a body of work 40 years in the making. That is something to be proud of.



Above: A scene on Duke's Layout.

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EVOLUTION TO RESOLUTION *(continued from page 7)*

Meanwhile, at the club, we were getting elbow deep in operations. So, I start trying to set my layout up to operate. Name locations, envision routes, figure out traffic flow, etc., etc. I had never even considered ops when I built the thing, so there's a collection of unworkable set out and pickup locations, nonsensical routes, and so forth. I would come home and study, think about it frequently, tried to make adjustments, and made up a plan to deconstruct and rebuild. I got frustrated and mad, study some more, figure some more, get mad some more, and eventually just stopped working on it.



Another scene on Duke's layout.

I still had fun, participated in the model railroad club, went to shows, visited other layouts, ran on the club's traveling layout, worked on club problems, ran club op sessions, played the whole game except on my home layout. I would run it for the infrequent visitor at my wife's request, she never mentions the floor, but any idea regarding further builds or changes had gone completely out of my head. Maybe not defeated, but certainly preparing a white flag. I would watch YouTube or some such and see a group of folks still nuts about the hobby and get sorta jealous. After quite a few purchases, I found out that simply buying something else would not rekindle that fire. I would go into the layout room, waddle around a bit, move this tool and that box, maybe try to fire it up and get really aggravated when things sputtered and stopped, usually in the most hard-to-reach places. This went on thru the pandemic and afterwards. I never really thought I would leave the hobby; I

have too many friends and too much invested in it. But it sure did not have the hold on me it once had.

Things came to a head one night when I decided to run a train on my layout. I expected some sputter and stop, but my layout rewarded me with the same lack of respect that I had shown it in the last few years. In my quest for neat-looking scenery, I have built some magnificent yet inaccessible expanses. In the long hours of several years of darkness, those nether regions had conspired to confound and work against me during my absence. And they had gotten very good at it. They knew I had gotten fat and lazy and did not want to bend and crawl and squat like I used to be able to. Found out I could still do it, but I hate it. And the layout knows it, and laughs. I spent five nights with my best-behaved locos and some track cleaning cars making the rails runnable again. It took a lot of elbow grease using a bright boy for this not-so-bright boy to realize you can't long ignore something you loved so much and not expect pushback, if not a complete breakdown. I know, I know, this applies to human relationships too. Good grief! Stay with the topic, will ya?

Finally, here is the resolution part. Who knows how many years any of us have left? I've been involved in tearing down a few layouts after someone has passed, between wiping sweat and muttered unspeakables, there is pathos in knowing the love and dreams and work that went into the construction. Perhaps the worst part is when the new owner of the space has no clue about the soul of a model railroader. Quite defeating. Oh, I know all the platitudes about making every day count, treat it like your last, blah, blah, blah. And they are right; I won't minimize that. But I've come to a point where I realize that I won't have a ground-breaking layout that boggles the mind with its innovation and forward thinking. I also realize that I am not up to a complete rebuild that is an ops ready track plan. I realize that I have a limited scope when it comes to rolling stock and scenery, I like old stuff. I realize I won't be able to look at a loco and tell you all of its details, probably not even the type. I realize I am so far behind the purists that I will never leave a body of work to rival them. But I also realize I have a wealth of widely scattered knowledge; I have a collection of repair parts and tools that will keep my stuff running. I have a group of friends that I can rely on to do some thinking for me, I have a number of places I can run trains. In other words, I am fulfilled, content, and blessed.

Instead of shooting for the stars, I have decided to stay on the ground and work on what is here. I hereby resolve: I will look for opportunities to share my layout, I will help others grab a fulfillment from this hobby, I will take what companionship is offered and return the favor, I will listen to the exciting tale of another train show find, and I will find time to spend with my own little railroad. For as long as it will have me. I think it still harbors some resentment. I hear things at night...

Duke Green lives in Southern Indiana, and is Superintendent of the Southern Indiana Railroad Club, a 100% NMRA club, in Jeffersonville, IN.

TRACKSIDE WITH FRED AND BARBARA SOWARD

Fred and Barbara took these photos while on a recent trip to Minnesota to visit family.



Canadian Pacific 2203, a GP20C-ECO, was found idling in the Duluth, MN, CP Intermodal Yard, waiting on its next assignment.

Photo by Fred Soward MMR®

The Ash Grove Cement Company's General Electric 50 Tonner Center-Cab was fully engaged at the cement plant. Barbara took this photo to show the boldly marked F and R to designate the front and rear of the locomotive. The locomotive is actually "on loan" to the cement plant from the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad (<https://duluthrivertrain.com/>) - a fully volunteer organization. Seems that the TrackMobile that the Ash Grove Cement folx recently purchased, is down for extended repairs so they asked the LS&MR if they can borrow the 50T locomotive they'd just donated.

<oops> *Photo by Barara Soward*



Union Pacific SD40N was found moving a train out of UP's Itasca Yard in Superior, WI. An SD40N is nothing more than an SD40 with upgraded new NEXSYS electronics supplied by ZTR Control Systems.

Photo by Barara Soward

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Left:

When Fred said, "Look at that sparkling clean hospital car," Barbara looked all over the highway for a new ambulance. A brief discussion and Barbara took this awesome photo of QUAX 300705 carrying tank car SHPX 206874 in the Duluth Intermodal Yard.

Photo by Barara Soward

OPERATING SESSION ON TOM GUENTHNER'S RAILROAD

Photos and Captions by Fred Soward MMR®



Left:

Brad Joseph, from the St Louis area, running trains during a recent operating session on Tom Guenther's new HO scale L&N layout

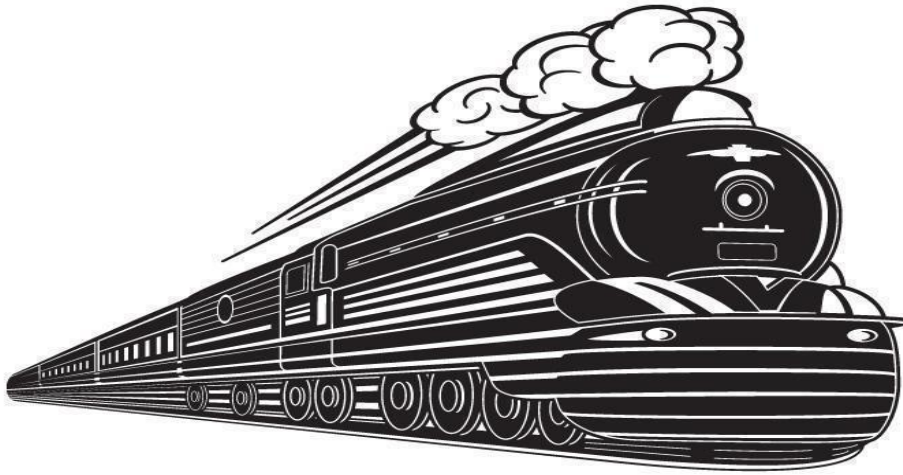
Right:

Division 8 member Rob Toler throwing a switch in Verda during the recent operating session on Tom's layout.



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WEBSITE: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>

ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/fall2025trainshow>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE



Annual Train Show & Swap Meet @ First Presbyterian Church



Hosted by the Southern Indiana Railroad

Saturday September 27, 2025

Swap Meet : 10 am to 2 pm

Layouts : 10 am to 3 pm

Admission: 1-Can Donation for Food Bank

Location: First Presbyterian Church

222 Walnut Street @ Chestnut Street

Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130

For Information on tables for the swap meet contact:

Darcy Elliott 502-424-8682

Duke Green 812-267-0761

Ken Pettit 812-282-1658

Email: southernindianarailroad@gmail.com

www.southernindianarailroad.com or www.facebook.com/sirailroad

Seventh Annual NMRA Division 6

Train Show

Cambridge Ohio

Sunday

October 26, 2025

10 am to 3 pm



Easy Access from I-70 and I-77

Pritchard Laughlin Center

7033 Glenn Hwy

Cambridge OH 43725

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Vendors Contact Greg - (740) 607-3223 - trainshow@div6-mcr-nmra.org



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The Depot Railroad Museum

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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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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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And **CLICK** or **CALL** if you have any questions. We'll get back to you right away.

It's not too early to get your fall and winter Division 8 uniform up to date. Look your best! Visit the Company Store today and get your outfit on track.