

Background:

The Charlie Keeling monthly contest is named after the man who served as the Division Eight contest chairman for twenty years. Charlie's dedication to administering the contest has contributed to increased member participation, and his devotion and countless hours of service has shaped the contest into what it is today.

The monthly contest was originally established as a mechanism to bring model railroad items into a "railroad sterile" meeting environment. To encourage members to bring models, a non-judging, popular vote system was put in place to determine the winner. Furthermore, rules were established that would allow any member to participate regardless of skill level. The contest is independent of the NMRA achievement program and was never meant to compete with it.

Over the years additional incentives have been offered to further increase member participation. A point system was established, which awards points for monthly contest participation and for placing first, second, or third in any monthly contest. At the end of the contest year monetary awards are presented to first, second, and third place finishers.

The contest continues to be a popular monthly meeting activity for Division Eight members and their guests. It allows every member to participate without the fear of being judged. It spawns modeling discussions, provides inspiration, and facilitates comradery among the membership.

Monthly Contest Rules:

1. You must be a Division Eight member in good standing to enter the contest.
2. You can enter any model consistent with the monthly category, including works in progress.
3. You can enter multiple items into each monthly contest.
4. You must complete and sign a contest entry form for each of your entries.
5. Entries do not have to reflect the work of the entrant.
6. You do not have to be present at a meeting to enter the contest. You may have someone else place your entry into the contest under your name.
7. The winner of the contest will be determined by popular vote. No official judging will take place as part of the contest.
8. Anyone attending the monthly Division Eight meeting is eligible to vote. An individual does not need to be a Division Eight member to cast a vote in the monthly contest. An individual may cast only one vote in each monthly contest.
9. Voting will take place prior to the start of the meeting, and again during the intermission before the start of the program.

Scoring:

1. Each individual entering an item in the monthly contest will receive one participation point regardless of their number of entries for that month. When someone enters multiple items in a single monthly contest, only their entry scoring the most points will be eligible for additional points should it place first, second, or third.
2. The individual whose entry receives the most votes will receive an additional three points for first place. The first place winner will also receive a certificate of award.
3. The individual whose entry receives the second most votes will receive an additional two points for second place.

4. The individual whose entry receives the third most votes will receive one additional point for third place.
5. In the event of a tie for first place, all tying entrants for first place will receive three additional points and a certificate of award. If two entrants tie for first place, there will not be a second place award. If three or more entrants tie for first place, there will not be a second or third place award.
6. In the event of a tie for second place, all tying entrants for second place will receive two additional points. There will not be a third place award.
7. In the event of a tie for third place, all tying entrants for third place will receive one additional point.
8. When there are 10 or more entries, two first place awards (three points each) will be given and one second place award will be given (two points).
9. Points will accumulate throughout the contest cycle, which runs from August through June. At the end of the cycle, the member with the most points is awarded first place, the member with the second most points is awarded second place, and the member with the third most points is awarded third place. The first tie breaker is the number of entry points. The second tie breaker is the number of first place votes.

Awards:

In the form of Scale Reproductions gift certificates:

\$100 for first place

\$75 for second place

\$50 for third place

Monthly Categories:

January – Freight cars

February – Non-steam motive power

March – Structures

April – Passenger cars

May -- Cabooses

June – Open loads

July – (no contest, picnic)

August – MOW equipment and highway vehicles

September – Photos (this is split into two contests: model and prototype)

October – Steam locomotives

November – Displays (no size limit)

December – (no contest, holiday party)