



# The PIE CARD



Division Eight Newsletter - Mid-Central Region, National Model Railroad Association

Volume 47

July, 2008

Number 7



## From the Superintendent's Desk...

### From the Superintendent's Desk

The first column and my first month in office are officially in the history books. It's time to get down to the work of having fun. As promised, your Throttle Committee has met to discuss and agree upon goals for the division. As your elected leaders, this is our best attempt to put into writing where we should start laying track. This is your division of course. Please take the time to look them over and share your comments. After all, each and every one of us has to pitch in to make these goals come to pass.

In an effort to speed and spread communication the goals are published on the division web site. I trust you will find this method convenient. By availing ourselves of modern technology we can improve communications and also reduce our costs. A side benefit we hope to realize is gain wider distribution of our newsletter. In turn, this should prove to be a useful tool in recruiting new members. Sharing this wonderful hobby and growing our membership is part of our charter and the key to our future.

Not all forays into new, or at least different, technologies can be expected to be as successful as using email and the Internet. At a recent work session on Sophia's layout, the Moon Mountain Railway, the time came to dig ditches. Well now, ditch digging is hard work, even if we are dealing with Styrofoam board. In the interest of furthering the hobby, I broke out a blow torch, tamed somewhat with a soldering tip. Our region president was present. He was attempting to call another member, or perhaps 9-1-1, but couldn't stop laughing long enough to punch in the numbers. Meanwhile, somewhere around a foot and a half away from the layout, the Styrofoam

began to melt. Those who took the tour at Charter Steel know what I'm talking about. Suffice it to say this wasn't a bright idea. If I had just gotten a bit closer, it might well of have become a very bright idea.

*The moral of the story is to be open to new ideas. Just know when to pull back before you get burned*

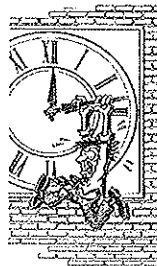
Mark



## TIMETABLE

Call an officer if you have any questions

(Phone Number on the last page)



**Jul 12,** Div 8 Picnic, Saturday, Buechel Depot

**Jul 13-19,** NMRA National Convention, Anaheim, CA

**Aug 9,** Saturday, Summerail, Cincinnati, OH

**Aug 16,** Div 8 Meeting, Saturday, 2:00 PM, Meadowview Church

**Aug 24,** Sunday, Model Train & Railroadiana Show, Carrollton, KY

**Sep 20,** Div 8 Meeting, Saturday, Taylor's Madison, IN

## MAINTENANCE TIE FUND

Do you enjoy the color pages in each issue of the Pie Card? It costs \$ 44 a month to bring them to you. The maintenance tie fund helps defray the cost of the color printing. To support this fund please give your contribution of \$ 5.00 or more to the Pie Card editor, Bob Dawson.

**January:** Charlie Keeling  
**February:** Mike Berry, Jack Diehl, Don Fowler, Bruce Goreham, Jim Harrington, John Kelly, Bob Kuchler, Mark Norman, Cecil Stewart, Eric Waggoner, Herman Weir, Bob Frankrone, Ron Rauchmiller  
**March:** Mike Berry, Jack Diehl, Don Fowler, Bruce Goreham, Jim Harrington, Bob Kuchler, Mark Norman, Eric Waggoner, Ron Rauchmiller, Ron Montgomery, Bob Johnson, Mark Hedge  
**April:** Mark Norman, Eric Waggoner, Bob Johnson, Jim Finley  
**May:** Eric Waggoner, Bob Johnson, Dale Bradley, Herman Weir, Cecil Smith  
**June:** Bob Johnson, Dale Bradley, Herman Weir, James Kuzirian  
**July:** Bob Johnson, James Kuzirian, Charlie Fackler  
**Aug:** Charlie Fackler  
**Sep:** Charlie Fackler  
**Oct:** Charlie Fackler  
**Nov:** Charlie Fackler

## Model Contest

JULY	NO CONTEST
August	MOW Equipment
September	Photos
October	Steam Locomotives
November	Displays/Dioramas
December	No Contest
January	Freight Cars
February	Diesels
March	Commercial Structures
April	Passenger Cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open Loads

Contest Chairman Bill Lynch is looking forward to your entries.

## DIVISION 8 ACHIEVES

As of this writing Sophia Norman is working towards her scenery

certificate. Also as you know Sophia is only 9 years old! Are you going to stand by and let her get ahead of you? On her layout she is building a tunnel with foam board and plastercloth from Woodland Scenics. Also included will be a lake with waterways depicting the western USA. This little gal gobbles up information as fast as we can put it out. She has also learned how to squirt her father with a spray bottle. That I taught her.....Get to work folks, West Va. is getting ahead of us.

Jerry Ashley MMR, Div. 8 AP Chairman

### **DIVISION 8 PICNIC INFORMATION**

The Division 8 picnic will be Saturday July 14. Again we will be at the Buechel Depot on Buechel Ave. off Old Bardstown Road in (where else?) Buechel. We have the depot all day, so if you want to do some train watching come early. Jerry says he will start grilling at 2:00 PM, and will be begin serving about 4:00 PM. The cost is \$ 5.00 per adult. The cost will be \$ 5.00 per person. You can pay at the picnic, but please call BOBBI HEDGE, 812-288-8037 so we can get an estimate of how many to prepare for. The Division will provide the meat, buns, soft drinks, and condiments. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish or dessert. Buechel Avenue is off "Old" Bardstown Road in Buechel. Turn right on to Buechel Avenue; the depot is on the right at the railroad tracks. See the map in this issue. Remember,



### **NO COLOR PAGES THIS MONTH**

There are no color pages this month, but look for a double page spread in the August issue.

### **NMRA PATENT CHALLENGE UPDATE**

June 6, 2008

**NMRA Patent Challenge Update: Real Rail Effects fails to respond**

**to NMRA DCC-sound patent challenge**

The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE. RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.

The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly

restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

### **REVISION OF DIVISION 8 BY-LAWS**

The work of the Division 8 By-Laws Revision Committee if finally completed. The proposed revision has been submitted to the Throttle Committee for review and comment. Current plans are to mail a summary of the revisions to the members during July, and vote at the August Meeting. The By-Laws Committee consisted of Bob Dawson, Jack Diehl, and Rick Tipton.

### **A GREAT TIME AT HARRY MUNZER'S**

Thirty or so Division 8 members and fiends enjoyed our June Meeting at Harry Munzer's Swift Creek Railroad, in Greenville, Indiana. The Swift Creek Railroad is a large G-Gauge Railroad running through a beautiful landscaped garden. The railroad was originally created by Bob Irmscher. When Bob decided to move to a smaller property, Harry bought it house, railroad and all. Bob had a tradition of holding open houses on the Saturdays of major holiday weekends through the Spring and Summer Seasons, and Harry has continued this tradition. Harry also hosts meetings for various groups. Harry's good friend, Bill Poteet, is usually available to lead tours around the garden and point out interesting features. Harry led visitors inside to see the HO and O gauge layouts, and Bill Poteet, Bob Irmscher, and members of Harry's family answered questions about the outdoor layout. Division 8 members, Mark and Bobbi Hedge provided the refreshments. There were six entries for the June Contest, Open Loads. No surprise, Bob Frankrone took the honors, with his interpretation of the open load model that appeared on the July cover of Model Railroader Magazine. Bob is well known for his "Open Load" clinics he has presented at several Mid Central Region Conventions. Look for pictures in next the August Pie Card.

## INDIANA RAIL EXCURSION PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER

Brian Banta of Edinburg, IN is planning another rail excursion on the Indiana Railroad this year. He is planning a round trip from Switz City, Indiana, across the Wabash River into Illinois. The date will be Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Rain date will be November 16<sup>th</sup>. He promises a full refund if you can't make the rain date.

The train will depart from Switz City at 9:00 AM, return at approximately 5:00 PM (freight trains will have priority.)

Cost will be \$ 65 per person. No credit cards will be accepted, make check out to "Banta Train". Mail to Banta Train, P. O. Box 56, Edinburg, IN 46124. Must be paid no later than two weeks prior. No refunds within two weeks unless the railroad cancels. Any profit will be donated to "The Indiana Railroad Company's Santa Train" Fund.

- NO pets, NO smoking, NO alcohol, NO Children under 16.
- Drinks, food and dessert included in price.
- For information: Brian Banta, Phone 812-526-6677 email: [BantaRail@aol.com](mailto:BantaRail@aol.com).
- DO NOT CONTACT THE INDIANA RAILROAD, the train is chartered by Brian Banta.

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## Division 8 MCR

### 21 June

### 2008 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held at Harry Munzer's Swift Creek Railroad, 6265 Buttontown Rd., Greenville, Indiana.

Meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mark Norman at 2:10 PM. All officers with the exception of the Clerk were present. Twenty-eight members and guests attended.

#### Ill and mending list:

- Jerry Ashley is at home recuperating from heart related surgery.
- Ivan Baugh is on the mend from having a shoulder operation.
- Jim Harrington is recovering from a broken leg. Jim hopes to be out and about in July.
- Katie Tipton is at home recovering from a knee replacement.
- Minutes for the May meeting were accepted as published in the Pie Card.
- Treasurer report was accepted for audit.

**Old Business:** There was no old business for consideration.

**News Business:**

- Division 10 (Lexington) is looking for clinicians. Their meetings are first Sunday of the month. They will reimburse for mileage. Send an email to Mark Norman if interested.
- Picnic: Date is July 12 at Buechel Depot. Bring a covered dish, Division will provide meat and soft drinks. Cost \$ 5.00/person, pay at the picnic. Call Bobbi Hedge so she can get a head count.

#### Committee Reports:

- Programs: Bob Dawson reported on the meeting schedule to the end of the year.
- August 16, Saturday 2 PM, Meadowview Church, host needed.
- September 20, Saturday 2 PM, Taylor's, Madison Indiana, bring a covered dish.
- October 18, Saturday 2 pm, Meadowview Church, host needed.
- November 13, Thursday 7:30 PM, Southern Indiana Club, Jeffersonville, Indiana.
- Shows: Bob Dawson reported that we have a promotional booth at the Worlds Greatest Hobby Show. He has asked for four passes. He could use three volunteers to help.
- Throttle Committee: Mark reported that the Throttle Committee met at his house last month, and has drafted written goals for the Division.
- Contest: This month's contest is Open Loads.

#### Clubs:

- Rick Maloney, KSONS, reminded everyone that the National N-scale Convention opens next week, Worlds Greatest Hobby Train Show will be 28-29 June.
- Bob Dawson read a letter Bob Johnson received from Steve Shetter of the KSONS. Due a change in aisle width requirements by the Fire Marshal, the O-6-O had to be dropped from the Worlds Greatest Hobby Train Show.
- Southern Indiana Louisville Connecting Lines, and Louisville Live Steamers, no reports.

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#### News for the good of the hobby:

Bill Lynch and Mark Hedge reported that Brian Banta is planning another rail excursion on the Indiana Railroad November 9<sup>th</sup>. Bob Dawson said he would put details in the Pie Card.

Mark thanked Harry Munzer for hosting the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Mark and Bobbi Hedge.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Dawson for Eric Waggoner.



**Division 8, MCR, NMRA <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/>**

Ivan Baugh, Webmaster

**Officers**

Superintendent  
 Mark Norman 502-254-9249  
 Asst. Supt.  
 Bruce Goreham 502-491-3996  
 Clerk  
 Eric Waggoner 502-244-6628  
 Treasurer  
 Jim Ward 502-961-0509

*(Committees, continued)*

Librarian  
 Membership  
 Bruce Goreham 502-491-3996  
 Show Programs  
 Mike Berry 502-245-1337  
 Swap Meet  
 Bob Dawson 502-368-2607

**Trustees**

Mike Berry 502-245-1337  
 Stephen Taylor 812-265-6155  
 Bob Dawson 502 368-2607

**Committee Directors**

Contests  
 Bill Lynch 812-256-2125  
 NMRA Achievement Program  
 Ivan Baugh 502-245-9816  
 Meeting Programs  
 Bob Dawson 502-368-2607

**Regional Officers**

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 Jerry Ashley 502-893-0801  
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 Dick Briggs 614-277-0314  
 Secretary  
 Tom Atherton 216-898-9435  
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 Gary Sole 216-650-2192

The Pie Card is published twelve times a year by Division 8 of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid-Central Region. Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Drive, Louisville, KY 40214.

Please address all correspondence, letters to the editor, articles to the Pie Card, etc. to the editor...Deadline for submitted articles is the 22nd day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to the printer by the first of the month.

**PIE CARD SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

IF THERE IS A "STAR" STICKER ON THE COVER OF YOUR PIE CARD, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS EXPIRED!

# The PIE CARD

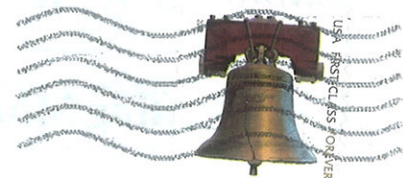
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**Inside this Issue**  
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 NMRA Patent Challenge Update

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