



The Pie Card



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

Volume 48

January 2009

Number 1



From the Superintendent's Desk

Greetings and welcome to the New Year! For our family, the time from Thanksgiving to Christmas was like the scene in *The Polar Express* where the locomotive is careening across the ice. "A bit more to the right! Back to the left a bit..." In the movie, the train lines up at the last moment and rockets up the tracks. This is being written the day after our Christmas Party and the day before I make a quick dash to the Pacific Northwest and back. I'm hoping by Christmas Eve to be rocketing up the tracks again. What a ride!

I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Christmas Party. Looking about, I saw many happy faces and swollen stomachs. The wait staff was bringing out doggie bags, so it must have been good enough to save. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen and be a success. This was a team effort as are most things that we do. Some of you got things set up, got donations, made calls, and countless other details. Others brought various gifts for the drawings. Still others took care of matters that I will never know about. For everything that was done and everyone who helped in ways large and small – Thank You!

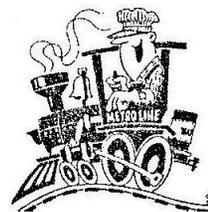
Outside, the weather is fickle as can be expected at this time of year. It's the perfect time to get moving on your next project. This past year *Scale Rails* has had an interesting series of articles under the banner Year of the Master Model Railroader. One consistent theme was that these were regular folks who took the first step. They started a project, kept good notes, and interacted

with their fellow model railroaders. In other words, put this newsletter down and pick-up your X-Acto knife. Let's go out and earn a certificate!

Lest I be accused of preaching, be it known that I am also practicing. I'm chipping away at my own AP requirements. December has been a wild ride across the ice, but the focus is on the next steps.

Last month, mention was made of those who have their first model railroading experience during Christmas. Sadly, many have their last experience in January. The Christmas tree gets taken down and the train perhaps put in a box. If the gears are full of crud and fibers they may well be frustrated by now. Here is an opportunity to do something wonderful for your friends and neighbors and potentially recruit a new member.

Before wrapping up this column, I would ask you to take a moment to admire the man or woman in the mirror. Tell yourself – "I'm a fine model railroader and even better person." You are. Now let's go prove it. Happy New Year!



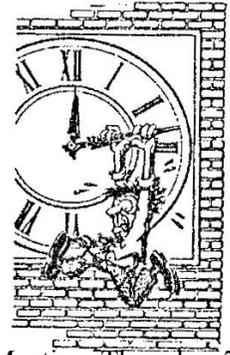
Mark

Model Contest

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

Contest Chairman Bill Lynch is looking forward to your entries.

TIMETABLE



Jan 15, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM, Air Port Industrial

Jan 17-18, Great Train Expo, Int'l Convention Center

Feb 21, Div 8 Meeting, Saturday 2:00 PM, Meadowview Church

Mar 19, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM, TBA

Mar 21, Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Highland Post

Apr, To be Announced

Apr 30-May 3, Mid Central Region Convention, Columbus, OH.

DIVISION DISPLAY LAYOUT

Nat King is heading a team to build a small operating demonstration layout for use at public shows and exhibitions to promote, NMRA, Division 8 and the Hobby. It is planned for the layout to be in one or two sections small enough to be transported in a mini-van. The layout will be funded by Division 8. If you would like to be part of this project call Nat King at 502-426-8656.

HOSPITAL CAR

Jerry Ashley reported that **Ed Brennan** underwent quadruple by-pass surgery in December. Ed is recuperating at home.

MAINTENANCE TIES 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.

Jan: James Kuzirian, Joe Fields, Ralph Bracewell
Feb: Ralph Bracewell **Aug:** Ralph Bracewell
Mar: Ralph Bracewell **Sep:** Ralph Bracewell
Apr: Ralph Bracewell **Oct:** Ralph Bracewell
May: Ralph Bracewell **Nov:** Ralph Bracewell
Jun: Ralph Bracewell **Dec:** Ralph Bracewell
July: Ralph Bracewell

DIVISION 8 ACHIEVES

Nothing was done in the AP Program during the month of December. I guess we just partied too much. I have one certificate to pass out in January but it looks like I may have to chase the guy down to give it to him. His name is Chris Broughton and he lives in Southern Indiana and belongs to the K-sons. I was going to pass the Award Certificate on at the Christmas Party but he did not show up even though he had made reservations.

Congrats are in order for **Donald Fowler** and his **Silver Spike Award**. No one could be more deserving.

Jerry Ashley MMR



The 21st Century Limited

Ramada Plaza Hotel & Conference Center
 4900 Sinclair Road (614-846-0300) , Columbus, OH 43229
 April 30th – May 3, 2009

This year's Mid Central Region Convention is being hosted by Division 6 in Columbus Ohio. Registration information will be published in the King Pin. You may also go to www.Div6-MCR-NMRA.org and select "Convention WEB Page" from the "News & Notes" on the home page. You may also contact the registrar: Registrar@Div6-MCR-NMRA.org.

NOVEMBER TRAIN SHOW COMMENTS

On behalf of the Train Show Committee I wish thank everyone who helped make our Fall 2008 Show a great success. These local hobby shops and dealers came through with donated door prizes. Kentucky Flier Trains, L & Trains & Things, Roundhouse, Scale Reproductions, and Short-n-Sassy Embroidery and More. Layouts make the difference between a Swap Meet and a Show. Thanks to Bob Johnson for his vintage Marx Layout, Radcliff Model Railroad

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JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION

The January will be Thursday, January 15, 2009, 7:30 PM. Meeting will be held at the AIR PORT INDUSTRIAL CENTER (Former Naval Ordnance Plant) Conference Center, Building 91.

From the East: **1.** Take the WATTERSON EXPY/I-264 east to The CRITTENDEN DR exit, EXIT 11, toward FAIR/EXPO CTR. **2.** Take the CRITTENDEN DR exit toward FAIR/EXPO CTR. /GATES 2-3-4; turn LEFT onto CRITTENDEN DR. **3.** Go 0.57 mi. Turn RIGHT onto NEVADA ST. NEVADA ST becomes WOODLAWN Overpass. **4.** Turn LEFT onto ALLMOND AVE at the traffic light at the west end of the Overpass. Follow ALLMOND AVE, **5.** Turn RIGHT onto STRAWBERRY LN. Turn RIGHT onto ROCHESTER AVE (into the Industrial Park). **6.** Turn LEFT onto Technology Park Dr. (between the two 5 in. Gun Mounts atop buildings on either side). Turn RIGHT the Parking Lot. The CONFERENCE CENTER is the second building on the Right and clearly marked.

From INDIANA, take the CRITTENDEN DR SOUTH exit from I-65 and continue to NEVADA AVE.

MERIT BADGE FAIR

On Saturday, December 6, Mark Norman and I had the pleasure of presenting a Railroading Merit Badge course for the Chief Old Ox District, Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Fair. The event was held at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany. Despite the forecast and eventual snowfall twelve scouts from Kentuckiana attended the course and completed the requirements for the badge. Well over 100 scouts attended the event which consisted of several other merit badges other than railroading.

We had the pleasure of hosting an Operation Lifesaver presentation by **Al Oswald** of Scale Reproductions. Al as many know is the local representative of Operation Lifesaver. This was just one part of the merit badge's requirements which also include describing a particular railroad and where they serve, identifying light and horn signals, jobs and departments at a railroad, different types of freight trains, planning a trip on Amtrak and other related things.

The merit badge also has two possible paths, model railroading and railfanning. Mark and I presented the model railroading section which included identifying the different scales of cars and engines and model making. Bob Johnson was gracious enough to loan the Division a case of various scale boxcars from G to Z. Thanks Bob! The Division

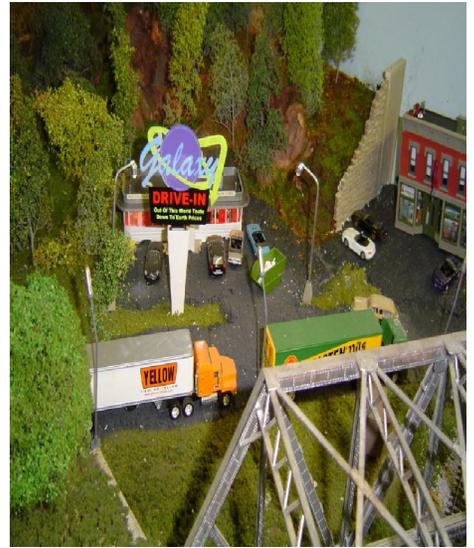
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Division 8/KSONS Christmas Party
"Our Best Restaurant" Jeffersonville, IN
December 18, 2008

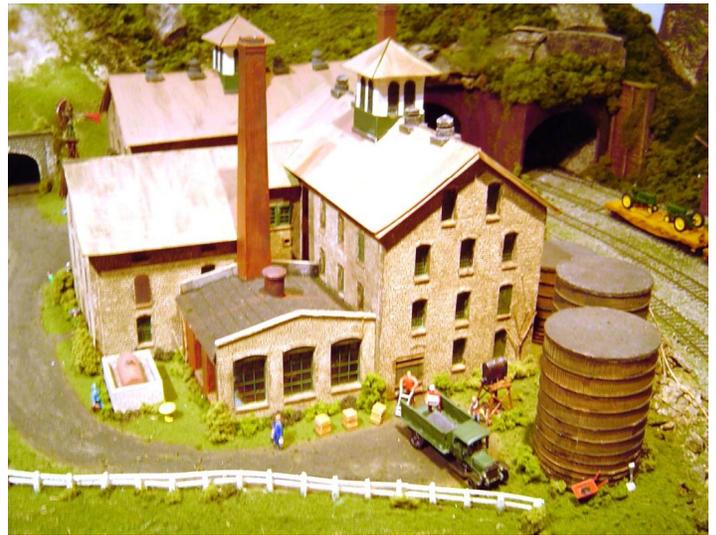
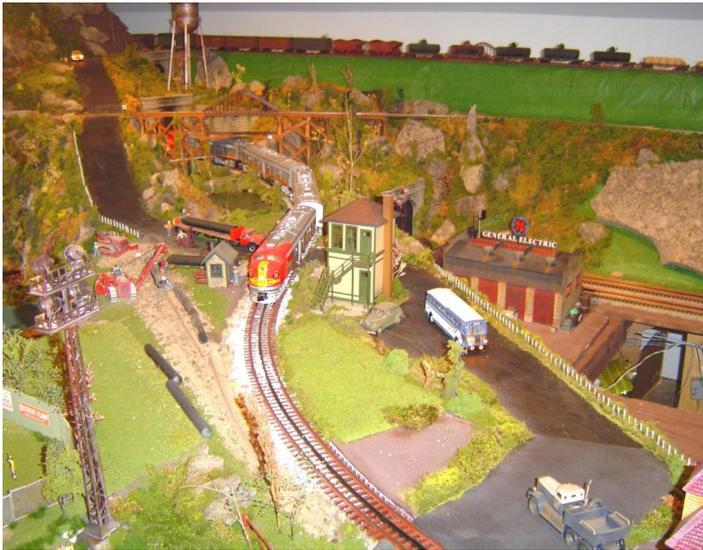


Don Fowler received the Silver Spike. Award.





Above: Ralph Bracewell. Check out Thomas on the Christmas Tree.
Below left: Bob Irmsher's O-gauge and On30. Below right: Harry Munzer's HO.



TRACKSIDE KENTUCKIANA

R. J. Corman Railroad hopper cars
in sand service at Nugent Sand
Company,
River Road, Louisville, KY.

January Contest subject
is
freight cars

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

The way we speak about our own organization can speak volumes, whether we are aware of it or not, of how members and non members alike perceive the value of being part of this group. To paraphrase Reagan's Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow."

A couple of months ago someone at a Division meeting I mentioned how the NMRA was getting bashed about on an online chat forum. Unless of course they were speaking about another NMRA, such as the National Mustang Racing Association, National Maritime Representatives Association, National Mine Rescue Association, National Masters Racquetball Association, or the New Mexico Rodeo Association (all of these groups are real by the way!)

Seriously though many of us may have at some time or another heard someone say something negative about our organization. Some of it comes from perception - such as the judging or resistance to have someone critique one's efforts at the hobby - or perhaps they witnessed something at a show or a club meet. I was told a story of the latter recently - a fellow interested in the hobby went to a swap meet several years ago and saw two guys "arguing about who was going to run the train next." This episode turned him off to the hobby and he went on to other things and model railroading was not among them.

Another story was a fellow who, when coming to his first Division 8 meeting many years ago, was snubbed by a member that said he couldn't join the Division unless he was a NMRA member. He then walked away having never offered any information on how to join the NMRA! Luckily for us that fellow came back and is now an active member of Division 8.

All of us probably know one or two former Division members who were turned off by something and left, never to return. Each and every one of us is a representative of our organization. When we are speaking to a friend or a stranger about our hobby we are in effect an ambassador of the NMRA and the hobby as well. The things we say and do as they relate to model railroading will directly reflect on this hobby and our organization. Since it is in the best interest of everyone if the Division and the NMRA grow (especially recruiting younger members) we all need to be aware of our responsibility.

We are all for the most part a happy group of folks. When we get together with other model railroaders we can "speak the language" and share our experiences, learn, teach, and just have a good time talking trains! Sometimes this talk can get a little too animated and comments can cut close to the bone. Constructive criticism is good when it really is constructive and not a put-down. Sometimes the words we use and the way we present them can be the undoing of someone's interest in the Division and in extreme cases the hobby as well (and in my short time with Division 8 I have

seen it happen.)

The way we speak about our own organization can speak volumes, whether we are aware of it or not, of how members and non members alike perceive the value of being part of this group. To paraphrase Reagan's Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Division Eight member" when speaking to those who are not members of the Division. From my experience looking in at other organizations when people start talking about others like that you wonder what they will be saying about you next.

So it is a New Year. Add to your list of resolutions to promote the Division and follow the Golden Rule: Treat others as we would expect to be treated. Think of what that funny but veiled critical comment or action might do to our organization before it is said. Don't be your own worst enemy. YOU are the Ambassador of the NMRA and our continued success is in your hands.

Bob Sobotka, Division 8 Membership Chairman

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was gracious enough to loan the Division a case of various scale boxcars from G to Z. Thanks Bob! The Division donated more than enough L&N tank cars to complete the kit building requirement and believe me those scouts, many of whom never built a kit car before, earned their badge building that tank car!

Railroading Merit Badge Counselors in Division 8 include **Mark Norman, Joe Fields, Don Fowler** and me. There may be more and I apologize if I left anyone out. A great way to get young people interested in the hobby is through this merit badge so if you know a scout you might suggest he pursue this badge and we might just help cultivate the next generation of modelers!

Bob Sobotka

DIVISION 8 EMAIL LIST

To have your name on the Division 8 E-mail list, send an email to **Jack Diehl**: diehljohn@bellsouth.net.

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Society's On30 layout, and the T-Track N-Scale Layout. Bruce Goreham again brought is N-Scale Mini-layout. The Falls City Liver Steamer's train rides were rained out, but they set up a Thomas the Tank Engine Layout inside For the kids. K & I Model Railroad Club supplied the test track. And those who rented tables, volunteers who helped with admission and getting the show open, and members and friends who came and spent money.

Bob Dawson, Train Show and Sale Chairman.

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

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The Pie Card

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IS THERE A RED STAR ON THE FRONT OF YOUR PIE CARD?

For many of you, January is the time to renew your Activity Fee/Pie Card subscription. If you have a "red star" on you address label, it's time to renew.