



The Pie Card



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

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From the Superintendent's Desk

In comparison to last month, the month has been comparatively quiet. We've avoided blizzards and such but got to enjoy the ice storm with the rest of you. We clearly appreciate electricity and the creature comforts afforded. On a positive note, the days without electricity led to wonderful family discussions around the fireplace. I have the greatest admiration for my family and how well we worked together. A hearty slap on the back is owed to all of the electrical workers, wood cutters, and other workers who toiled to restore services. Well done!

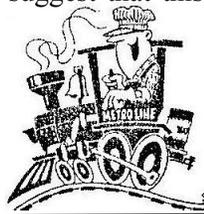
With power restored and some of the yard cleaned up, a bit of time has been devoted to railroading once again. It is so relaxing and therapeutic to get away from the cares of the day and do a bit of modeling. We truly share the world's greatest hobby. I recognize that this amounts to preaching to the choir, but consider our hobby. We work with plastic, metal, wood, adhesives, lubricants, paints and so forth. A materials engineer would be impressed. There are aspects of civil, electrical, mechanical, and industrial engineering that come into play. Many of us explore the historical aspects of our favorite railroads. We get to do a bit of woodworking building the bench work. There is scenery leading most of us to research the appropriate flora for our area and time. Artwork anyone? There are operations to be conducted. For those of us who are clumsy, there are trips to the emergency room to be pieced back together. What other hobby combines so many different opportunities? Our membership ranges

from five to ninety-two! Everyone can have fun.

The reason for mentioning the above is to re-state what all of us already know. This is a great hobby. We can start young, do it all our lives, and just like a fine wine, get better with age. We owe it to those who are not part of the division to share this wonderful knowledge. Don't keep this wonderful hobby a secret. Share it with everyone! Already we are seeing a few new people look us over and indeed join us. WELCOME ABOARD!

The economy is at the forefront of many people's minds these days, me included. I'm not about to delve into the dismal science of economics. That's for people far smarter (or dumber) than me. What I can attest to is that it is a great value. The cost to get started is actually quite low. Sure, we can spend some serious money on a fine brass locomotive. If you have the available funds and inclination, go for it. On the other hand, you can get a nice plastic car kit for the cost of a couple of lunches out. Let's face it, a car kit, tools, and accessories are cheaper than a week's vacation just about anywhere. Are you pressed for space? Join one of the great clubs, build a module, or get involved with Nat on the division layout. The truth is that we have options.

Many of our friends and neighbors are facing stress now. Allow me to suggest that this is an opportunity for us to introduce them to the world's greatest hobby. Have them join the fun and reduce the stress.

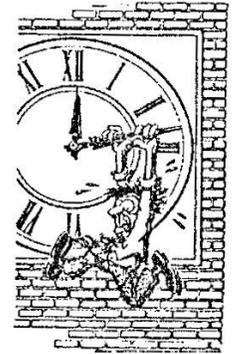


Mark

DIVISION 8 EMAIL LIST

To place your name on the Division 8 E-mail list, send an email to **Jack Diehl**: diehljohn@bellsouth.net with the subject "Please Add to Email list."

TIMETABLE



- Mar 19**, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM, Conference Center
 - Mar 21**, Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Highland Post
 - Apr 16**, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM, to be announced
 - Apr 30-May 3**, Mid Central Region Convention, Columbus, O
 - May 16**, Div 8 Meeting, Saturday, 2:00 PM, location to be announced.
 - Jun 18**, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM, The Johnson's
 - Jul**, No Meeting, Annual Picnic, TBA
 - Aug 20**, Div 8 Meeting, Thursday, 7:30 PM, Bob Frankrone's
- (Several meetings will be on Thursday evenings. Check the Time Table each month for meeting location.)*

DIVISION 8 ACHIEVES

Finally all completed, correctly signed and submitted. are Bob Kuchler AP forms for Cars.....all of them. Structure forms for some of Ed Brennen's buildings, about five I think, and one...I repeat... ONE judging form for Bob Sobotka's car. All completed and on their way to Frank Koch in Batavia Ohio. Along with all that was a bunch of Jim Wards Author's AP completed papers. We should hear something in the next few weeks from Frank as to their progress or non-progress. Thanks to these gentlemen for their hard work in the Achievement Program

Jerry Ashley MMR, AP Chairman

MARCH STRUCTURES

March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
January
February

COMMERCIAL

Commercial Structures
Passenger Cars
Cabooses
Open Loads
No Contest
MOW Equipment
Photos
Steam Locomotives
Displays/Dioramas
No Contest
Freight Cars
Diesels

Bill Lynch and Bob Johnson shared the honors for the February Contest. See pictures on page 3. Point standings to date are: Bob Johnson leading with 5 points; Nat King, Bill Lynch, Bob Sobotka with 4 points each. With one (1) point each: Jack Diehl, Bob Frankrone, Charlie Keeling, Tom Lindquist, Herman Weir.

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. Donors for 2009 to date are:

\$ 50 or more: Don Fowler, Ralph Bracewell

\$ 25 to \$ 45: Charlie Fackler, Bob Lawson, Ivan Baugh.

\$ 5 to \$ 20: Stephen Taylor, Charlie Buschmann, Eric Waggoner, Bob Frankrone, Bob Johnson, Jim Harrington, Charlie Keeling, Short'n'Sassy Embroidery, Mark Hedge, Jim Kuzirian, Joe Fields, John Ottman, Bill Poteet, Ron Montgomery, Jerry Ashley, Ed Brennan, Frank Becker, John Henle, Jack Diehl, Cecil Smith.

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DISREGARD BALLOT IN MARCH SCALE RAILS

To all NMRA members from Jan Wescott, Chair, and Gerry Leone MMR, Deputy Chair of NMRA member services:

Due to a printer's error, the ballot accompanying the March Scale Rails is invalid. HQ mailed a new ballot March 4, 2009 to all members at the printer's expense. Please do not use the magazine ballot. We are sorry for the inconvenience and confusion caused by this situation.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

One of the best kept secrets of NMRA benefits is your access to the A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library. The library, located at NMRA headquarters in Chattanooga, TN, probably contains the world's largest collection of railroad books, magazines, photos, videos, as well as other related materials. One call to the library could get you the information you need about a particular interest such as prototype modeling or layout construction techniques to name a couple. Although it is open to the general public the museum offers discounts for research to members and exclusive use of videos to members only.

The library's collection includes complete runs of all the major magazines such as Model Railroader, Trains, Railroad Model Craftsman, the now defunct Mainline Modeler, and more. If there is a particular article you are interested in (you can find an index at <http://index.mrmag.com>) you could obtain it from the library for a small photo copy fee and postage. If there is a general question, such as prototype information for L&N 40 ft flat cars in the 1940s, the library could research its collection (much more than just magazines) and send the information to you. There is a fee for this service. NMRA members pay \$15/hour where non-members pay \$30/hour. There is a \$5 minimum fee. You can limit how much research to do. Photo copies are 25 cents for members and 50 cents for non-members. A complete listing of fees is available on their website at <http://library.nmra.org/>

The video collection index is available on the library's website. They offer prototype, modeling, and clinic videos for rent to members only for \$5 plus the cost of return shipping.

The library tries to obtain three of every publication and excess books and magazines are available for sale. A listing of these books and their prices are available on their website as well. The library will also gladly take donations of any railroad publication or memorabilia.

Their full-time librarian, Brent, tells me that one of the most overlooked functions of the A.C Kalmbach Library is their research and publishing of the NMRA's own books such as The Postwar Freight Car Fleet. You can contact Brent by calling the museum at (423) 894-8144 or email: Lib@hq.nmra.org

Bob Sobotka, Membership Chairman

DIVISION 8 TRAIN SHOW & SALE

Saturday, March 21, 2009
10 am to 3 pm
Highland Post American Legion
2929 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY

February Contest Winners



Above left: Bob Johnson's O Scale L & N VO 1000. Above right, Bill Lynch's HO NS MP15.

Operating Session at Bob Frankrone's



Top left: Herman Weir and Ray Rohmann. Top right: Mark Norman and Bob Sobotka. Bottom left: Rob Johnson and Brian Weir. Bottom Right: Rob Johnson operating on the switching module.

Pike Showcase: Bob Frankrone's Louisville Southern



Photos by Bob Frankrone



TRACKSIDE KENTUCKIANA



Above left: Jerry Ashley and Bob Sobotka presenting the JMRI clinic at the February meeting. Above right: Commercial Sturcture at Fourteenth and Kentucky Streets. The March Contest is **COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES**.

AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The Division met at the Meadowview Presbyterian Church. Two visitors, Dave Benson and Gary Anderson, were welcomed. It was reported that life member, Ed Tasman, has passed away. Ed was a long time fixture at our Train Shows, operating the admittance table. Ed will be remembered for his dry sense of humor. Our condolences go to his family.

Plans and Projects: Nat King is moving forward on developing the Division Display Layout. The members gave approval for Nat to spend up to \$ 500 on the layout. It was mentioned that former member Jim Rollwage had built a small display that we had used at past shows and he still had it. It was decided to contact Jim and see if it was available, and then see if it could be incorporated into the project.

Bob Dawson was tasked with forming a committee to develop the Division Logo for possible use on shirts, or patches.

Eric Waggoner is in the process of updated Membership information, with the possibility of publishing a new Membership Directory.

Bobbi Hedge has agreed to take charge of coordinating refreshments at non-home meetings.

Mark Norman said the Throttle Committee is looking into the possibility of using the Sam Swope Boy Scouts of American building for meetings. This is a new building near Sam's Club on Blankenbaker Parkway. They have modern meeting rooms equipped with projectors and A/V equipment. There may also be space to store the Division 8 Information display as well as the proposed display layout.

Around the clubs: The KSONS will be setting up at the Floyd County New Albany Library during the week of April 6.

Clinic: Jerry Ashley and Bob Sobotka presented a clinic on using JRMI software to program DCC equipped locomotives. Jerry explained the software is free, but a "LocoBuffer-USB" interface must be purchased to connect your computer to a "LocoNet". You can configure locomotive performance criteria as well as developing a roster list and control panels. . Jerry said the interface is available at Scale Reproductions Hobby Shop. JMRI is intended as a jumping off point for model railroaders who want to control their layouts from a computer without having to create an entire system from scratch.

Bob Sobotka gave a brief program on how to use the "XTrk Cad" feature of JMRI as a tool to design a layout. Using this with XtrkCadReader, you can import your physical layout design from XTrkCad directly into JMRI so you can easily set up controls

Another thing we learned was how fast Nat King can move. Jerry had started a locomotive on his display track from his laptop and then walked away from it. Nat jumped up from his chair and caught it in mid-air. For details on the JMRI system, see their website: <http://jmri.sourceforge.net>.

MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

The March meeting will be Thursday, March 19, 2009, 7:30 PM., 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.

Bob Frankrone will present the Program. Thanks to Bobbi Hedge for taking over coordination of refreshments for non-home monthly meetings.

CHANGE IN REPORTING MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Beginning this month the official minutes for the previous month's meeting will not be printed in the Pie Card. Instead a summary of business and activities of the meeting will be reported. The Official Minutes will be posted to the Web Site for review by the members. Paper copies will be available immediately before the meeting is called to order for those who don't have access to the Web Site.

An Invitation

Membership Chairman Bob Sobotka invites all model railroaders to visit the web site for his Kentuckiana Railroad, the River City Route at <http://kentuckianarr.home-insightbb.com/>. There you can view his layout design and see the equipment that he has painted.



The 21st Century Limited

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

Visit the convention web site for details:
<http://mcr09convention.dwilke.org/FirstPage.html>

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

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 Jerry Ashley 502-893-0801
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 Bob Dawson 502-368-2607

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 Mike Berry 502-245-1337
 Swap Meet
 Bob Dawson 502-368-2607

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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* 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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