



# The Pie Card



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

Volume 49

February 2015

Number 2

## From the Superintendent's Desk



As we start a new year I would like to make this request again for suggestions of presenters and their programs for the year. In the past your ideas have given us some great programs, and most have been from our members. We all like to get new ideas on projects, or how to improve on the existing ones and

this is a great way.

A few months ago I talked about deadlines and how we would get nothing done if not for them. Between Christmas and New Year's I had two different groups of railroaders stop by to run trains. Both were beneficial as I had two deadlines and boy did I get a lot done!

Before the first group stopped by I had help from Jim Petro in getting the first area of my layout with scenery. As you all know it's good to have the right help on a project you haven't had experience doing before. Oh yes, I've done scenery, it was Jim's new way of painting the track rails. In emails Jim explained how he used acrylic paints and a brush to paint the track rails. To be clear, not an air brush, but the old paint brush to move that paint back and forth.

What about the turnouts? Yep, those too, however, as always, take it easy around the points and throw bar. I was worried in a couple of spots where the paint had pooled a little. "No worries", Jim said, it will go away. He was right and it looks great. The pluses of brush painting your rails are 1) no choking fumes and 2) if you need to touch up any areas you can use a small brush with no worries of overspray.

What about when it's time to ballast? Since it's acrylic paint, does some wash away when you wet the ballast for gluing? No, and I used wet water with 91% isopropyl alcohol!

Let me know if you would like me to demo this and show you the finished product at a future meeting. Until then, keep those clinic suggestions coming.

*Russ Weis*

## AT THE JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting was held January 17, 2PM, at Iroquois Post American Legion. This was the first time to meet there. The minutes from the November meeting (no meeting in December) were accepted as posted on the web site. The treasurer's report was accepted to be filed for audit. There was no business to be discussed. Russ Weis circulated a meeting schedule for signups for refreshments for the future meetings. Nat King said the K & I Club was set up at the South West Regional Library in December. Nat said that for the nine days they were running they averaged 300 visitors per day. He also said the K & I Club will host an open house at their Buckner Club house April 11 and 12. Bob Johnson said the O-6-O club is looking forward to our visit with them at the Antique and Toy Mall in February. There were 13 entries in the January Contest. See photos and report elsewhere in this issue. Thanks to Eric Waggoner, who couldn't attend but still provided refreshments for the meeting. The program, in two parts, was given by rail historian, author, and board member with Kentucky Railway Museum Charlie Buccola. In the first part, "Falls City Railroads" Charlie described railroads serving the city today and their historic roots. In the second part, he provided an update on plans for fundraising by KRM to restore L & N Pacific #152 back to service.

**THANKS** to Bill Lynch who donated a sound equipped locomotive to use on the Division 8 display module.

## TIME TABLE

**Feb 21**, Sat, 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg., Toy Mall

**Mar 19**, Thur, 7:30PM, Iroquois Post

**Mar 21**, Sat, 10-3, Div 8 Train Show, Highland Post, American Legion.

**Apr 11-12**, K & I Club Open House

**Apr 25**, Sat, 2 PM, K&I Model Railroad Club, Buckner, KY

**May 23**, Sat, 2 PM, Iroquois Post

**Jun 20**, Sat, 2 PM, Iroquois Post

## CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

*Fred Soward, Contest Chairman*

February	Diesel Locomotives
March	Commercial Structures
April	Passenger Cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open Loads
July	NO CONTEST
August	MOW Equipment
September	Photographs
October	Steam Locomotives
November	Displays/Dioramas
December	NO CONTEST
January	Freight Cars

Next month, bring a diesel locomotive to enter in the February contest. As always, the judging is strictly "People's Choice." If you would also like your model to be judged for the Achievement program, contact Joe Fields and he will arrange to have AP judges present.

The January Contest was Freight Cars. There were thirteen entries this month. Because of the number of entries, we had two first place finishers – Bob Kuchler (N Scale US Steel Flatcar) and Nat King (HO Scale CNW Cylindrical Hopper Car). Photos on page 3.

Point standings for the year: Bob Kuchler is leading the group at nineteen points; Bob Johnson and Patrick Hardesty are tied at second with seven points; Fred Soward is in fourth place with six points; Ed Brennan and Nat King are tied in fifth place with five points; Bob Frankrone, John Kelly, and Russ Weis are next with four points; Bill Lynch stands alone with three points; there is a two-way tie at two point apiece for Barry Christensen and Jack Diehl; rounding out the crew with one point apiece are Joe Fields, John Bowman, Mark Norman, Rick Maloney, and Tom Lindquist.

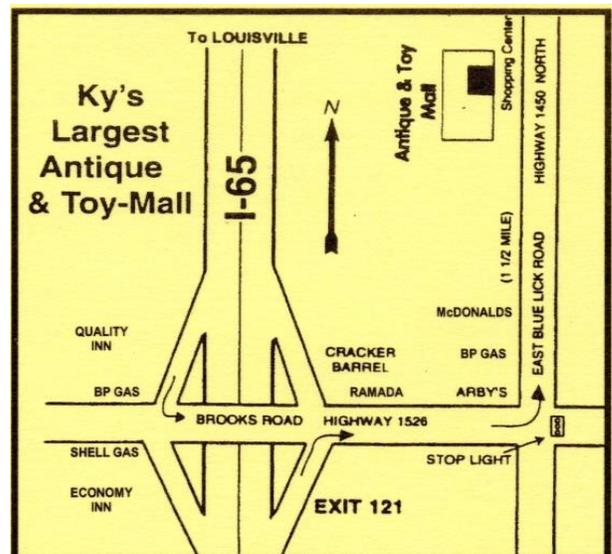
As you can see from the photo of the hopper car, in addition to all the usual grime and graffiti Nat applies to his cars, this one received an extra dose of rust. I was intrigued by the way the rust didn't just lay on the shell as another layer of paint, but seemed to actually bubble up along welds, ladders, and under the walkways. Nat said he used a product from Triangle Coatings he bought at Michael's called "Sophisticated Finishes Rust Antiquing Set." It is packaged in a 2 ounce bottle, contains metal flakes to get that layered built-up rust look, is applied like ordinary paint, and is water soluble

Ed Brennan won the gift card drawing.



### DIVISION MEETING SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21

We will meet Saturday February 21, 2 PM. at the South Louisville Antique & Toy Mall, 4150-8 Blue Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40229. This is in Bullitt County. The meeting will be hosted by the Falls City Live Steamers and the O-6-O Model Railroad.



### DIRECTIONS TO FEBRUARY MEETING

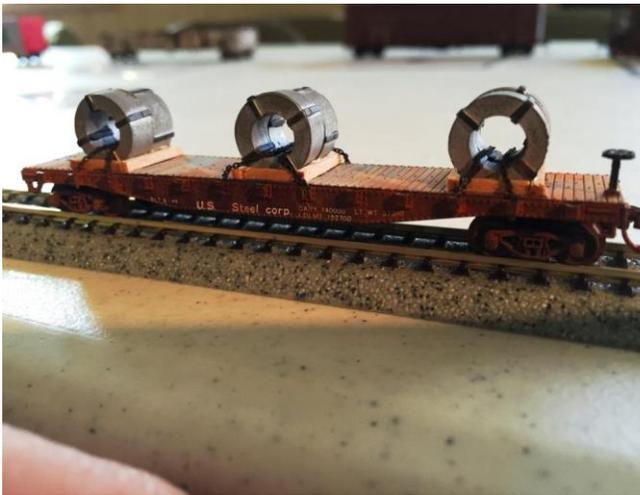
From I-65 take the Brooks exit (121) and go East on Brooks Road, Hwy. 1526 to the traffic light at Blue Lick Road. Turn left (North), the Antique & Toy Mall is 1 ½ miles on the left. Walk through the building to the back of the Mall. Parking is available in front of the building. Additional parking is available at a church across the street. There are several layouts in various scales set up and running. **BE SURE TO BRING A CHAIR.**

### MAINTENANCE TIES FUND 2015

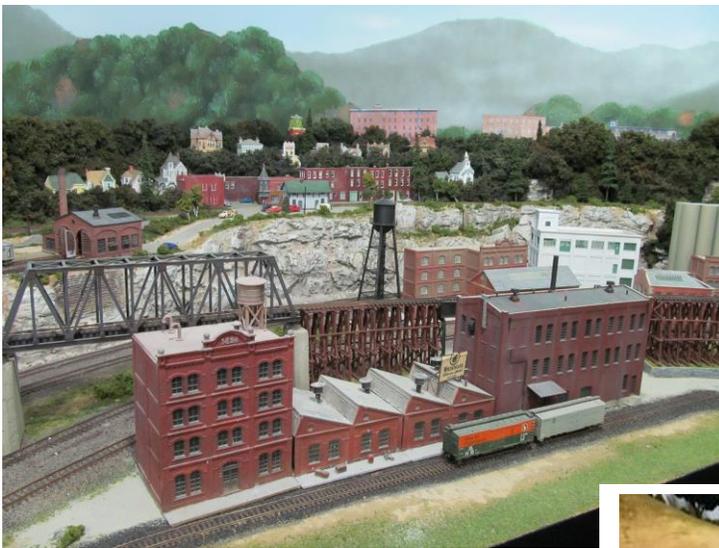
The Maintenance Ties Fund helps underwrite the Member Welfare Fund and the printing of the Pie Card for those members who don't have access to a computer. The Member Welfare Fund provides a gift certificate to a member or spouse who has been hospitalized. It is also used for an expression of sympathy upon the death of a member or a member's spouse. Donations of \$ 5.00 or more to the maintenance ties fund are recognized in the Pie Card.

\$60 Bob Johnson; \$25 Ed Brennan; \$20 John Bowman, John Czerwinski.

JANUARY CONTEST



Because of the number of entries, there were two first place finishers: – Bob Kuchler’s N Scale US Steel Flatcar and Nat King’s HO Scale CNW Cylindrical Hopper Car. *Photos by Fred Soward*



PIKE SHOWCASE

Left: Industrial area on Bob Kuchler’s N-Scale Milwaukee Road Layout.

Right:

A Santa Fe Freight hi-balls through the Southwest on Bruce McKeown’s HO layout.

Bruce is a pilot with UPS.

*Photo by Russ Weis*





**TRACKSIDE WITH CHARLIE KEELING**

Left: It's September 25, 1985 and a crowd has gathered near MN Tower to watch L & N Pacific #152 move from River Road to the Kentucky Railway Museum's new location on Formby Lane.

Below. Trailing 152 is the rest of the Museum's rolling stock.

Note: The auxiliary tender is lettered for Seaboard System in readiness for the Steam Excursion Program.

Below: Tom Gunther uncoupling a car on Chris Broughton's N-Scale Pennsylvania Railroad.

*Photo by Joe Martin*



**SCALE REPRODUCTIONS, INC.**

ADVERTISEMENT

3073 Breckinridge Ln.

502-459-5849

Large selection of HO & N Scale products. Walters and Digital dealer, Everything you need for you layout.

Helpful sales staff.

Mon-Fri 10-7:30, Sat 10-5

Sunday store hours are seasonal

[www.srihobbies.com](http://www.srihobbies.com)



**RECENT OPERATING SESSION AT TOM GUENTHNER'S**

Left: Russ Weis (left) is switching the Poor Fork Branch, while John Bowman checks his switch list for Corbin Yard.

Below left: Mike Berry on the Loyall Turn making his pickups and setouts at Loyall.

Below right: Eric Waggoner on Train 22 (Lynch-Louisville Passenger Train) departing Harlan.



**THOROUGHBRED LIMITED  
2015 MID-CENTRAL REGION  
CONVENTION**

May 14-17, 2015  
Lexington, Kentucky

Here is your chance to attend a convention close to home. Join our friends in Lexington. The Convention Hotel is the Crown Plaza (Campbell House) 1375 Broadway, Lexington, KY 40504. Convention Registration is \$80. There will be a full schedule of clinics, including a "Building with the Masters" make and take clinic. Guided tours include: TT RR Yard Tour, Bluegrass RR Museum with train ride and lunch, NS/Toyota Intermodal Yard, plus others. For information, registration forms, or to register on line:

<http://thoroughbredlimited2015.yolasite.com/>, or go to Division 8 Website, click on links, go to Division 10 and click on Convention. There is also a link to the hotel on the Convention Site.

The Window  
By John Czerwinski



*Illustration 1: The Window*

My wife, Regina, and I moved to Bardstown, KY in August 2012. The house we chose for our new home must have space for my amateur radio station and a place for the model railroad I had planned to build for a number of years.

The track plan I used as the standard for the railroad space required was based on the railroad described in *N scale railroad in a closet*, page 114 of the Model Railroader January 2001 issue. The layout also appears as Plan 6, *Pennsylvania RR Middle Division*, page 12, Model Railroader Special Issue, 102 Realistic Track Plans. I modified this ten foot long by 30 inch wide N-scale model railroad by flipping it end for end, adding a 2 foot by 4 foot yard at the right end and extending the branch line. My minimum standard for railroad space in our new home was an “L” shaped space ten feet by six feet six inches.

We found a home with a fifteen feet three inch wide rec room that had just under six and a half feet clear on the short leg of the “L”. This looked like an opportunity to expand the main part of the track plan by fifty percent. So, all else being satisfactory, in particular the flower garden space for Regina, we decided to buy this house.

As is the case in all house hunting excursions there are details that become confused between candidate houses even if you take pictures to document what you saw. For this house the issue was the rec room's south wall window. Situated roughly centered in the south wall of the rec room the window was taller and extended closer to the floor than remembered. The initial plan to deal with the window was to simply build the railroad past the window making no special provisions for the window. That plan lasted only until she, who is the household Real Estate Officer, commented that some provision had to be made to allow for periodic window cleaning. As can be seen from Illustration 1, the window is wide and extends down well below the deck heights for the train table.

This previously unaccounted requirement led to reassessment of the planned layout with time spent reviewing a number of layouts from Model Railroader's on line track plan library and multiple MR track plan and track planning publications. The major modification considered was to bridge the window space (a four foot segment) with a narrow lift out section. While workable, and buildable, the impact this had on other desired layout features/capabilities never produced a layout as pleasing as the original design.

After struggling with several versions of a track plan redesign it appeared that the initial idea was the best for the modeling purposes and interests. The track original plan was redrawn to take advantage of the extra space available. A four foot long window access segment was designated and care was taken to keep the track that crossed the two access segment ends straight and perpendicular to the segment end. The expanded track plan looked promising.

The resulting base structure design was a segmented base design that used alignment pins ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch oak dowels) and two - six inch long  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 20 threaded rods to secure the segments. The main base structure was a box built with 1 x 3 red oak project wood as found at the Bardstown Lowe's big box store. Initially there were four base sections: two five foot six inch sections, one each at each end of the fifteen foot wall; a four foot section bridging the window space and a two foot by four foot section that was to “L” to the north at the right side of the main base train table. The leg trestles were made of white wood following the pattern described in *Easy and versatile benchwork* available from Model Railroader at [www.modelrailroader.com](http://www.modelrailroader.com).



*Illustration 2: Left Side Base Sections.*

An additional section was added to the plan, and its base, when the household Real Estate Officer ceded a five foot six inch by eighteen inch space. This addition made the plan “C” shaped rather than the original “L” shape and extended the branch line. Illustration 2 shows the left side base segment, two primed and painted backdrop sections and the south end off the new addition. As construction is still underway the new addition is the staging place for tools and supplies.

The 1x3 base was decked with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch oak plywood and a two inch scenery base of white construction foam. The components were aligned, leveled and mated. Clearance for railroad art was checked. This resulted in reducing the height of the backdrop so

the art was not masked by the backdrop. It was necessary to separate the segments to gain access to the wall to hang the railroad art. This led to improvements to the alignment pins and leg adjusters.

With all segments separated access to both sides of the base gave ready access for drawing the track plan. Preliminary track fitting pointed out fit issues and demonstrated that the track center to center clearance used in the paper design drawing was overly generous when the track was seen test fitted on the base. Illustration 3 shows the right side of the track plan drawn on the foam of that side's base segment, cork road bed placed along planned track center lines at the rear and cork road bed at closer track center spacing near the front. Barely visible on the right segment is a dummy PA-1 painted in Southern RR colors and 2 box cars being used in initial track alignment tests. A part of the 2 x 4 foot yard segment may be seen to the right of Illustration 3. The yard segment currently serves as the sorting location for switches bought in anticipation of the layout's needs.

Illustration 4 shows track testing after track center spacing was narrowed. The track work in this area is complex. The PA-1 is on the north/east bound main line. The box car to the left is on a siding that will service industries to the right and left. The branch line begins at the switch to the left of the box car.

While the window has been an obstacle and challenge which has delayed progress on the railroad that was hoped to be in initial operations by now the solution to the window access issue is workable. Disassembling the base to gain access to the walls, to be able to easily add the backdrop and to more easily work on the track plan is proving out the fundamental concept. The need to solve the window access problem has proven to be helpful in unexpected ways. So, what began as a problem has become a benefit. Progress is slow but steady. No completion date has been scheduled.



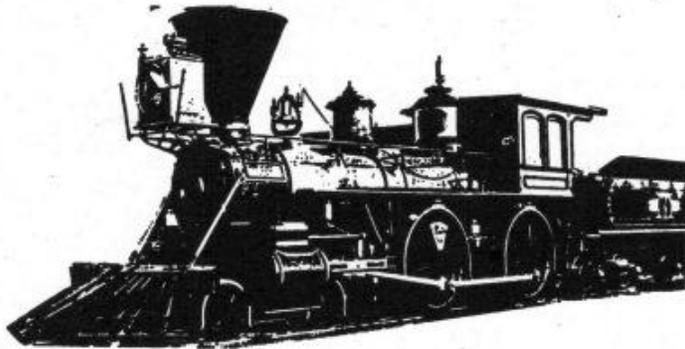
*Illustration 3: Right Side Base Sections.*



*Illustration 4: Track Testing.*

# TRAIN SHOW AND SALE

Sponsored by Louisville Division 8 • National Model Railroad Association



**SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015 • 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**  
**HIGHLAND POST, AMERICAN LEGION**  
**2919 BARDSTOWN ROAD, LOUISVILLE**

- **Model Trains in All Scales**
- **Operating Layouts and Displays**
- **Retail Sales**
- **Hourly Door Prizes!**



**ADMISSION:**

\$5.00 per person - Children 12 and under free with an adult

**Dealer Tables available • \$25 per table**

For information or to reserve dealer tables contact:

Mark Hedge • (812) 288-8037

E-mail: [div8trainshow@gmail.com](mailto:div8trainshow@gmail.com)

Superintendent:	<b>OFFICERS:</b>	Russ Weis	502-245-7991
Asst. Supt:		Eric Waggoner	502-244-6628
Clerk:		Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Treasurer:		Mike Berry	502-245-1337
	<b>TRUSTEES</b>		
Ed Brennan MMR		502-327-6178	
Tom Guentner		502-363-3113	
Fred Soward		502-499-0770	
<b>COMMITTEE DIRECTORS</b>			
Contests	Fred Soward		502-499-0770
Achievement Program	Joe Fields		502-964-2679
Librarian	Open		
Membership	Cecil Stewart		502-252-7814
Member Welfare	Rick Wehr		502-500-6398
Pie Card:	Bob Dawson		502-368-2607
Show Programs	Mike Berry		502-245-1337
Train Show and Sale	Bob Dawson		502-368-2607
Meetings & Program	Russ Weis		502-245-7991
Webmaster	Tom Guentner		502-363-3113
<b>MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS</b>			
President:	Merlyn Jarman		812-539-3232
Vice-president:	Bob Weinheimer MMR		304-343-1428
Secretary:	Art Bumpus		

**THE PIE CARD**  
 Division Eight, MCR, NMRA  
 Box 99041  
 Louisville, KY 40269-0041

Editor & Publisher:  
 Bob Dawson  
 Asst. Editor: Rick Tipton

The Pie Card is published twelve times a year by Division 8 of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid Central Region.

Please address all correspondence to Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Dr., Louisville, KY 40214 or email: [dawsobl@aol.com](mailto:dawsobl@aol.com).

Deadline for submission of articles is the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month.

**DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE  
IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**






**Available:**  
 Division 8 Long Sleeve Denim Shirts and Polo Shirts  
 Division 8 Baseball Caps  
 HO L&N Tank Car Kits.

For selections, prices, and order form, go to: [div8-mcr-nmra.org](http://div8-mcr-nmra.org) and click on "Company Store".

The PIE CARD  
 Division 8, MCR, NMRA  
 7305 Ticonderoga Dr.  
 Louisville, KY 40214