



The Pie Card

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



Volume 50

March 2016

Number 3

From the Superintendent's Desk



If your layout is run by DCC you probably have installed Digitrax's Power Xtenders, TCS's Keep Alive, or Soundtraxx's CurrentKeeper in one or more of your locomotives.

For those of you who run your layout on DC (analog) this message is for you, too.

The devices mentioned are basically capacitors, which store electricity, and attach to your DCC decoder. They are a great add-on to your decoder and allow your locomotive to keep running over short dead spots as often happen with turnouts, especially with short wheel base engines.

You say they are also helpful with larger diesels, like an E7, or a SD-40. I say why do you need a power extending device on such a long engine? And your reply may be without the power extender my engine stalls going through certain turnouts on my layout. Sounds to me like we need to get the track gang to do some work on those turnouts.

Someone said to me, "let me know before you paint your rails." I asked why. The answer was, "no layout ever runs as well once you paint the rails." So why is that?

The answer is once we paint the rails, specifically the turnout points; we usually lose the electrical path and end up with those dead spots. So what's a guy supposed to do?

One of the first things to do before you start painting is to tape that small area where the points touch the stock rails. After painting make sure that area is clear of paint and tape.

As we talked about a few months ago, make sure the points are tight against the stock rails. If not, then add a heavier piece of piano wire. This is a must, especially if you are using a Caboose Industries ground throw.

If you use a Tortoise, or Blue Point to control your turnouts it's easy - power the points. Both machines have two sets of contacts and you can use one set to power the points.

One more suggestion is that you can use jumper wires as Walthers does on their code 83 "DCC friendly" turnouts if you have some of their older turnouts, or similar style turnouts from other manufacturers.

Power extending devices have their place, but they are no substitute for a well maintained turnout!

AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was held on February 20, 2016 at Iroquois Post American Legion. Again we found our meeting room occupied by someone else and moved to the main hall. Attendance was 26. New member Carl Krull and his wife Becky were welcomed. Fred Soward received his Association Volunteer Certificate; see photo and details on page 3. Fred showed an example of our Convention Shirt. We hope that all who plan on attending the Convention in Columbus will order and wear one. Mark Hedge reported that table rentals have been slow for our spring show. Bob Dawson gave the program, "Iron Road Thru Lagrange". Fred and Barbara Soward provided refreshments. The official minutes are posted on the Division Website.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Greg Bergman, Troy Harrod, Carl Krull, and Richard Luce.

TIME TABLE

Mar 17, Thur, 7:30 PM, Mtg., Iroquois Post.

Mar 19, Div. 8 Train Show, Moose Lodge.

Apr 16, Sat, 2PM, Div. Mtg., Iroquois Post.

Apr 28-May 1, MCR Convention, Dublin, O.

May 21, Sat, 2 PM, Div. Mtg. K&I MRR Club, Buckner, KY.

Jun 18, Sat, 2 PM, Div. Mtg., Antique & Toy Mall.

CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

Fred Soward, Contest Chairman

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
January	Freight Cars
February	Diesel Locomotives

It was another close vote this month - Craig Hatter brought it on with his HO scale Atlas L&N HH C420 #1318, ex-Monon #501. Bob Kuchler came in second with his heavily weathered N scale Milwaukee Road GP9. We had 8 diesel locomotives submitted as entries by 7 individuals this month.

See page 3 for photos of first and second place winners, and a description of Craig's winning entry.

The top three standings remain the same: Bob Kuchler is in first place with 16 points; Barry Christensen is second with 10 points; Bill Lynch is in third place with 7 points; Craig Hatter jumped into fourth place with 5 points after his win this month; Ed Brennan, John Czerwinski, Rick Maloney, and Tom Lindquist are tied with 3 points; Bob Johnson, Cecil Stewart, Joe Fields, and Patrick Hardesty are next with 2 points; at 1 point apiece are Bob Frankrone, Jack Diehl, John Kelly, Robin White, and Steve Oswald.

Next month is Commercial Structures. Did you ever wonder what that really means? Just what really counts as a "Commercial Structure" in our division modeling contest? Answer – if it's not residential (house/apartment), it's commercial! That includes small, medium, large size businesses and railroad related buildings. The judging is strictly people's choice. I'll have blank contest entry forms for anyone who needs one, but you can save yourself some time at the meeting by downloading the entry form from the Division 8 website or Facebook page and completing it prior to arriving at the meeting.

Barbara Soward won the gift card drawing.



MARCH MEETING INFORMATION:

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 7:30 PM AT IROQUOIS POST AMERICAN LEGION, 800 W. WOODLAWN AVE., 40215.

Bob Kuchler is giving a clinic on making "Bottle Brush" trees. Refreshments: Barbara and Fred Soward.

DIVISION 8 ELECTIONS 2016

Ballots have been mailed to all voting members of Division 8 in February. Ballots must be returned by mail in time to be received by March 16, 2018 by the teller, Joe Fields. Nominated are: Superintendent, Russ Weis; Assistant Superintendent, Eric Waggoner; Clerk, Bob Dawson; Treasurer, Mike Berry; Trustee, Fred Soward. There will be spaces for write in votes for each position. The ballots will be counted and the results announced at the March meeting.

MAINTENANCE TIES FUND 2016

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. \$40 John Ottman, \$25 Ed Brennan; \$ 11 Jim Kuzirian.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Joe Fields, AP Chairman

I was pleased to present Fred Soward with his Association Volunteer certificate at our February meeting. Congratulations Fred. See photo on page 3. I also reported at the meeting that the paper work for several structures judged for Mark Norman have sent to Frank Koch for approval. I hope to have Mark's Certificates of Merit back soon. Tom Guenthner talked to me about a category that he is almost ready to complete.

By the time you read the next Pie Card the Great Train Show will be history for the Louisville area. Hope you were able to attend.

Convention plans are moving right along, if anyone would be interested in helping with the Company Store, White Elephant sales, or sell Raffle Tickets, please talk to me. As always if you have a project you need judged please give me a call at (502) 396-3503, or email me at joeflds3@aol.com I'll set up a time and a location where we can get together to look at your work. Happy Model Railroading to all.



FRED SOWARD RECEIVES ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

Left: Achievement Program Chairman Joe Fields (left) presented Fred Soward with his Association Volunteer Certificate of Achievement at the February meeting.

Photo by Barbara Soward

Below:

Photo and caption by Fred Soward

MARCH CONTEST WINNER

Craig Hatter's winning model was painted Scalecoat II gray and custom-mixed L&N yellow. He used Microscale decals, and hit it with light weathering with sprays and chalks. Look closely and you'll see a Detail Associates firecracker antenna and Cal-Scale horn. Craig admits that a few details aren't quite right such as brake lever placement and the Monon (prototype was originally Monon Passenger engine #501) light package missing from both ends. When he built it, he wanted a representative of the prototype to run with his other C420s and wasn't willing to wait for Atlas to come out with their version (estimated ship date – first quarter 2016). The model is HO Scale



SPRING TRAIN SHOW AND SALE

The Spring Train Show and Sale is Saturday March 19 at Moose Lodge 5, 4615 Fegenbush Lane.

Admission is \$6 per person, Children 12 and under free with an adult.

Sales Tables are still available for \$30. NMRA members get a discount. To reserve a table call Mark Hedge (812) 288-8037 or email: div8trainshow@gmail.com.

Help is needed for set up on Friday and take-down on Saturday, as well as Saturday morning to assist dealers to their tables.

3 PM Friday. Set up dealer tables.

7:30 AM Saturday Morning. Assist with dealer check in.

3 PM Saturday. Take tables down and reset Moose Lodge Tables.

The more that can help the quicker it goes. We were able to set up and take down in two hours.

If you can help let Bob Dawson know at: DAWSOBL@AOL.COM or see him at the March meeting.



PIKE SHOWCASE

Left: A Harlan Street Railway Company car passes by Harlan Park.

A scene on Tom Guenthner's Louisville & Nashville CV Division.

Photo by Tom Guenthner

Right: Rob Cooper took this picture on his L & N RR.



Left: Wayne Feeds on John Ottman's C&J Railroad.

Photo by Tom Guenthner.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

By Bob Dawson

**SWAP MEETS TO TRAIN SHOWS**

The Division 8 Trains Shows have been an institution in Louisville for the past 25 years. In 1990 the Division found itself on hard times, barely able to afford the postage for mailing the Pie Card.

Various remedies were tried including the founding of the "Maintenance Ties" donation program that still continues today. It soon became apparent that more a stable source of income was needed. That was when the Superintendent at the time, Greg Mathews suggested a train show. Greg had experience in fund raising from working for non-profits.

Greg is now the President and Executive Director for the Kentucky Railway Museum.

This was not the Division's first experience with a show. A swap meet had been held in a community meeting room at a bank in Hikes Point. Then a show was held at Meadowview Presbyterian Church. Seeing that a larger space was needed, Greg arranged for rental of the gym at St. Joseph's Children's Home on Frankfort Ave. This worked for a while, until we went to set up the show, and found they had disposed of all of their Tables. A new location was needed and the show settled down for several years at the VFW Post on Poplar Level Road. Layouts were added, and about that time we began holding two shows a year. Again looking for more space, the show moved to the Highland American Legion Post in 2004. Except for two shows at Ramada Inn, we remained at Highland Post until 2015.

With the Legion Post up for sale, and its future uncertain, the show moved in the fall of 2015 to the Moose Lodge on Fegenbush Lane. The show has had various chairmen over the years. The early swap meets were organized by Art and Bruce Goreham. After Greg Mathews left to go to KRM, Charlie Buschman and Kevin Jones ran the show. Jerry Ashley chaired at least one show after Kevin and Charlie decided to hang it up. Eventually Bob Dawson became the chairman.

**STEAM AT MN**

Charlie Keeling caught this action at MN tower (the Junction of the former L&N Water Street Line with the Short Line at Melwood Avenue) on September 25, 1985. #152 is being moved to The Kentucky Railway Museum at Ormsby Station. #152 had been left behind at River Road to finish its return to steam.

This probably was the first steam movement through MN in thirty years.

STEAM RETURNS TO MN

Actually steam powered specials had passed through MN several times since 152's passage in 1985, but ended with UP Challenger #3985's transit in 1992 on its way to power the CSX Santa Train on the former Clinchfield.

Steam returned, albeit briefly, on May 24, 2008 when R. J. Corman used his Chinese QJ to pull the sand train up from River road and on to Lexington.

Photo by Bob Dawson





MORE FROM THE MARCH CONTEST

Left: Bob Kuchler was the first runner up on the March model contest with his heavily weathered N scale Milwaukee Road GP9.

Photo by Fred Soward

Right: It may still be winter time where we are but it's always summer in Verda, KY where the corn and the sunflowers are growing tall.

A scene on Tom Guenthner's Louisville & Nashville CV Division Layout.

Photo by Tom Guenthner



Left: It's also summer on the K & I Model Railroad Club's portable layout.

The Hatter family has locked up the store, packed the camper and are heading for the lake.

Photo by Ron Ellison



A STUDY OF BERNARDSTON AUTO EXCHANGE

Above and right: Built as a small HO diorama by John Ottman, each side presents new details.

Photos by Tom Guenthner.



STEAM BOAT AT THE LANDING

Left: Bob Irmscher built this steamboat model from a kit. Bob uses a room vaporizer to provide the "smoke" coming from the stacks.

The boat is on Bob's O-Scale Layout in Floyd's Knobs, Indiana.
Photo by Bob Dawson

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THE PIE CARD

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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.

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

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IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**
**Available:**

Division 8 Long Sleeve Denim Shirts and Polo Shirts
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For selections, prices, and order form, go to: div8-mcr-nmra.org and click on "Company Store".

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Division 8, MCR, NMRA

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