



# The Pie Card



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

Volume 52

January 2018

Number 1

## From the Superintendent's Desk



Do you have “a guy?” A guy for what you ask? You know, “a guy” who does railroad work on your layout.

If you heard Fred Soward’s review of the national convention a few months ago, he visited a layout where the owner didn’t do much work on his layout as he had “a guy” that did the wiring, benchmark, track work and so on.

Many modelers say the building of their layouts is most of the fun; the running of trains is secondary. It’s a great feeling when you get a compliment on how good your scenery looks, or how well your trains run.

There may only be a handful of modelers out there who did everything on their layout. Most of us, myself included, need help in certain areas of building our layouts -- and that’s okay.

My “go-to guy” is Jim Petro. When Jim got me started on my previous layout, he told me he would get me going, but he wasn’t going to build the whole thing. Well, 25 years later he is still giving me advice and helping me in the modeling areas that don’t come easy for me.

Once I started working at the shop, I met more model railroaders who are willing to help me in areas where I haven’t gone before. I have a number of old brass engines that I’m ready to get decoded with sound; however, they needed that old Pittman motor replaced before the decoder installation starts. So I’m getting first hand training on re-motoring.

You’ve heard me say this many times, but it’s worth saying it again -- by joining one of the local railroad clubs, or attending Division 8 meetings, you too can find “a guy” to help you get started on your layout, or help you along with those areas that are tough for you to tackle.

At most of our Division 8 meetings a member will give a short clinic or demo on just about any facet of our hobby. This is a great way to learn how to do many different railroad projects. By joining a club you’ll get mentored by a senior club member who has experience in that work area of the club’s layout.

So don’t just belong, participate. Who knows, some day you’ll be “a guy” your fellow railroaders come to for help.

Russ Weis

## TIME TABLE

**Jan 13**, Sat 2 PM, Div.8 Mtg., 600 Room

**Jan 20-21**, Great Train Show, Fairgrounds.

**Feb 17**, Sat 2 PM, Div.8 Mtg., Antique & Toy Mall

**Mar 17**, Sat 2 PM, Div.8 Mtg., 600 Room

**Mar 24**, Sat. 10-3, Div8 Trains Show and Sale, Moose Lodge.

**Apr 21**, Sat 2 PM, Div.8 Mtg., 600 Room.



## CINCINNATI EXPRESS

Mid-Central Region Convention

West Chester, Ohio, May 17-20, 2018

Hosted by Cincinnati Division 7, MCR, NMRA

Mailing Address: CX Registrar  
6526 Hollowview Ct.

Liberty Township, OH 45011

**CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST***Fred Soward, Contest Chairman*

<b>January</b>	<b>Freight Cars</b>
February	Diesel Locomotives
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

We did not have a contest in December because our meeting was the annual Christmas party & dinner. Our contest year continues in January with Freight Cars.

Contest standings for the year didn't change from last month's standings because we didn't have a contest in December, but here's a reminder for everyone: Bill Lynch leads with 9 points; John Stoltz moved into second place with 7 points; Bob Frankrone and Joe Fields are tied for third with 5 points; Bob Kuchler and Ed Brennan are fourth with 4 points; Barry Christensen is next with 3 points; Patrick Hardesty and Ron Ellison are next with 2 points; and Bob Johnson, Rick Maloney, and Robin White are at 1 point.

Remember that the judging is strictly people's choice. I'll always 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. 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.

**DIVISION 2018 ELECTIONS.**

Positions up for election are Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Treasurer, Clerk, and one Trustee. The nominating committee will present their report at the January meeting. Following their report, nominations may be offered from the floor.

Both the person making the nomination and the nominee must be a regular member per NMRA regulations. The nominee must agree to serve if elected.

**SILVER SPIKE**

Congratulations to Ron Ellison who was presented with the Silver Spike award at the Christmas Party; Ron was recognized for his service to Division 8. Photo on page 3.

**JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION**

**Due to a conflict with The Great Train Show the January meeting will be one week earlier than usual.**

This month's meeting will be 2 PM Saturday **January 13** at the 600 Room, first floor of the 600 Building, 600 N. Hurstbourne Pkwy. 40222. Park in the lot on the west side of the building on N. Whittington Pkwy. Use the Whittington Pkwy. entrance. Fred Soward will present the program, "What you Really Need to do to Complete your Chief Dispatcher AP Certificate."

**Russ Weis's layout will be open following the meeting. Maps and details will be provided at the meeting.**

**2018 MEETING SCHEDULE**

January 13, Saturday, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 February 17, Saturday, 2:00 PM, Toy Mall  
 March 17, Saturday, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 March 24, Sat. Div. 8 Train Show  
 April 21, Saturday, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 May 26, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 June 16, Saturday, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 July-NO MEETING-PICNIC/OUTING  
 August 18, Saturday, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 September 15, Saturday, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 October 20, Saturday, 2:00 PM, 600 Room  
 November 15, Thursday, 7:30 PM TBA  
 November 17, Sat. Div. 8 Train Show  
 December-NO MEETING-CHRISTMAS PARTY  
*Check the Pie Card for any changes.*

**CLINICIANS AND HOSTS NEEDED FOR 2018 MEETINGS**

Russ Weis will be asking for clinicians and hosts at the January meeting. Giving a clinic isn't rocket science it can be on a model you have built, a railfan trip you have taken. Hosts provide refreshments and will be reimbursed.

**MAINTENANCE TIES FUND 2017**

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 to date: Ron Ellison, \$59.



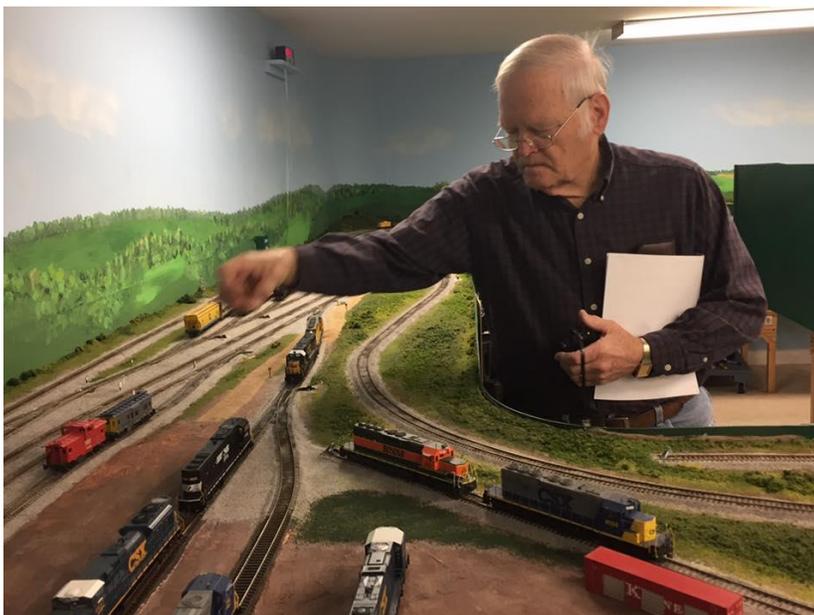
Left:

Congratulations to Ron Ellison, this year's recipient of Division 8's Silver Spike Award.

Superintendent Russ Weis presented Ron with the award at the 2017 Christmas Party

Below: Some photos from the party.

*Fred Soward Photos*



Left:

Cecil Smith operating a yard on Larry Smith's L&N Railroad in Lawrenceburg, KY.

Photo was taken at a recent operating session.

*Fred Soward Photo*

## LOVE THOSE LOADS

By Bob Frankrone



Bethlehem Steel (photo #1) is a rather large industry on my home layout. Taking up about 16 square feet of prime layout real estate, it's quite the landmark feature in the small town of Falls Creek. Bethlehem Steel operates a full-sized blast furnace, a three-stall rolling mill, and has ten service tracks running throughout the facility. It even employs its own 70-ton switch engine to shuttle around the various freight and specialty cars that are typically found at a steel mill.

I wanted to build an open load that would complement Bethlehem Steel and look right at home spotted on one of its service tracks. I decided to model a plate steel load, similar to the prototype load shown in photo #2.

I used .020" sheet styrene to create the steel plates, which in HO scale measures 1 3/4" thick. I considered using .010"

styrene, which represents a scale thickness of just under one inch, but the plates seemed too thin for the look I wanted to achieve.

I cut out six rectangular pieces, all 15/16" wide but of various lengths between seven and four inches. The important part here is to make sure the cuts are straight and the corners are square. I then spray-painted the six cut-out pieces a "gun metal" gray color, which provided just the right amount of sheen to make the styrene look like real steel. I did not paint the undersides of the steel plates as they would not show on the finished model. Once the paint had thoroughly dried, I lightly dusted each plate with rust colored weathering chalks, which really enhanced the realistic appearance.

Before loading the steel plates onto the flat car, I made one bundle of the six plates. Using 2x8" scale lumber as spacers, I stacked each plate one above the other, starting with the longest and ending with the shortest.



I used a cyanoacrylate adhesive (CA) gel to glue the plates to the spacers and made sure I aligned the plates into a straight stack. Next, I banded the plates together with 1/32" striping tape, being careful not to band them so tightly as to warp the thin plastic plates. I accented each band with a dab of red paint to simulate crimping rings.



The final task was to mount the bundle of steel plates onto the flat car. Again I used 2x8" scale lumber as spacers between the bottom steel plate and the deck of the flat car. Once the load was glued in place, I used heavy thread to simulate the tie-down cables used for fastening the load to the flat car. The completed model is shown in Photo #3.

**Tis the season for Holiday Open houses**

Some of the model railroads that were open over the Holidays.



Above: *Back Shop Boys* layout at Brownsboro Center Arcade. Part of Roundhouse Electric Trains Open House.



Above left: Harry Munzer's open house in Greenville, IN.

Above: Larry Smith (left) with Fred Soward at Tom Guenther's.

Left: K & I Travelling layout at Southwest Regional Library.

*Bob Dawson Photos*



**THE KID AT DECOURSEY**

By Rick Tipton

In 1964 I got to go on a trip to L&N's DeCoursey Yard, arranged by my local Dayton division of NMRA. Naturally, at that time, DeCoursey was alive with cars, chiefly hauling coal north via Cincinnati to interchange to B&O, NYC, and PRR for delivery to a wide range of customers farther north. Naturally, the empties returned via DeCoursey to be routed back to mines such as on the Eastern Kentucky and Cumberland Valley lines in eastern Kentucky.

One stop on the tour was the engine terminal – not the roundhouse of steam days, but a “modern” diesel facility with steel-walled buildings. Our timing put us there shortly after the first of L&N's new GP-35's were delivered by EMD... and we overheard a heated discussion in which an L&N motive power guy told the EMD rep that L&N was going to rate the GP-35 at 2400 horsepower.



Edison H. Thomas/L&amp;N Collection/University of Louisville Archives

Now this was at the beginning of the turbocharged horsepower race of the 60's and 70's. Even a kid like me knew that the GP-35 came out in response to GE's 2500 hp U25B, which had been out over a year – and that the hopped-up power plant in the GP-35 was straining the capability of EMD's 567 design, which was derived from GM's Charles

Left: During the steam era, 20 years or so before the visit described, an M-1 leaves DeCoursey with an Atlanta bound fast freight. Jack Fravert photo

Kettering's rework of the Winton 201A from back before World War II. In 1966 EMD would respond to the horsepower challenge with the larger 645 diesel engine (3000 horsepower and up), but in the meantime the GP-35 had to hold onto EMD's very large “domestic market share”. I never learned exactly what the EMD guys did – probably set the fuel racks higher, and maybe

other tweaks. In any case, everywhere I can find, the rating of L&N's GP-35's is 2500 hp as EMD advertised (some examples are in Joe Morton's book on his days on the Short Line, or in the authoritative *Louisville & Nashville Diesel Locomotives* by Castner, Flanary, and Gordon.

I was reminded rather sadly of this recently while traversing the I-275 bypass in Northern Kentucky. South of Covington and Latonia, it bridges across the valley of the Licking River, and over a huge bare spot where DeCoursey Yard used to be – there's literally nothing left but the “Kentucky Central” main line. Apparently CSX decided they could do without the yard – which, once traffic rebounded, many have said was a mistake (Cincinnati and its Chessie-system-era Queensgate Yard has proved to be a serious CSX bottleneck).

Right: GP35 1112 at Corbin, KY, June 1964

Ron Flanary Photo

And yet, now, with northbound coal traffic a ghost of what it once was, I have to wonder if DeCoursey would have had to be abandoned by now anyway. It's a good thing that kid didn't have to think about such stuff – I was just thrilled to be visiting this big, very active, L&N yard.

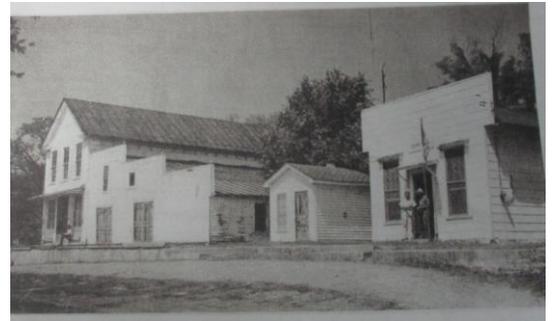




**BLACK FRIDAY TRADITION**

Rather than haunt the Mall on Black Friday, Bill and Ruthie Lynch have their own tradition. Bill reports that this was the sixth year he has taken his grandson rail fanning. They started out in Corydon, IN. Bill, Ruthie, grandson Brody, and great grandson Boston headed north to Corydon Junction and then west to Princeton Indiana.

The boys saw their first train at Princeton an eastbound Mixed freight with all Canadian power entering the Yard. The CN SD60 in the lead was very clean for its age.



**FALLS OF ROUGH, KY**

Tom Guenther is in process of recreating the town of Falls of Rough in Grayson County as it appeared in the 1930's. This was a company town owned by the Green family timber and farming operation covering 5000 acres.

Tom is scratching building the structures (most no longer in existence) using photos from the Grayson County Library and measurements taken on site.

Superintendent:  
Asst. Supt:  
Clerk:  
Treasurer:

**OFFICERS:**

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Eric Waggoner 502-244-6628  
Bob Dawson 502-368-2607  
Mike Berry 502-245-1337

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Ed Brennan MMR 502-327-6178  
Tom Guentner 502-363-3113  
Fred Soward 502-499-0770

**COMMITTEE DIRECTORS**

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Achievement Program	Joe Fields	502-396-3503
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Membership	Cecil Stewart	502-252-7814
Member Welfare	Rick Wehr	502-500-6398
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Train Show and Sale	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
Meetings & Program	Russ Weis	502-245-7991
Webmaster	Tom Guentner	502-363-3113

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Secretary:	Jerry Doyle	304-638-2826
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**THE PIE CARD**

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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.

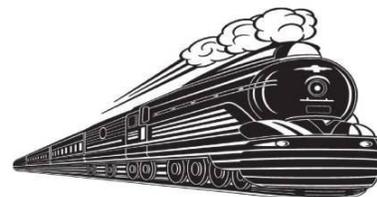
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For selections, prices, and order form, go to: [div8-mcr-nmra.org](http://div8-mcr-nmra.org) and click on "Company Store".

**TRAIN SHOW AND SALE**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**  
**MOOSE LODGE 5**  
**4615 FEGBUSH LANE, LOUISVILLE, KY 40228**

- Model Trains in All Scales
- Operating Layouts and Displays
- Retail Sales
- Hourly Door Prizes!
- Great Food & Beverages
- FREE Parking



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Mark Hedge - (812)288-8037 Email: [div8trainshow@gmail.com](mailto:div8trainshow@gmail.com)

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