

The Pie Card

Volume 53, December, 2019, Number 12



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Just in case you haven't heard – the November Train Show & Sale was a major success. The new venue provided additional space for layouts and dealers, as well as great lighting. The success, however, is really because of the work of every single person

who participated before, during, and after the event. Attendance was up, dealer table sales were up, and everyone had a great time. Couldn't have done it without y'all, so thanks again to everyone who played a part – even if you think it was a small part you played, it was a big part of what made it a success.

Ron Ellison's detailed planning, advertising, and execution of the event has raised us to a new level. He's already working on the March 21, 2020 Train Show & Sale. The flyer and the dealer table reservation form were up on the Division 8 website the day after the show. He'll start the advertising campaign in the very near future. The Train Show & Sale cannot be the success it is without all the helping hands on the day of the event, but I'm sure Ron would appreciate a bit of help in the months leading up to the show. Be sure to thank him for what he does and seriously consider how you can be a part of the ramp up to next March.

As much as I'm looking forward to the next Train Show & Sale, I'm also looking forward to getting back to building that layout in our basement and getting some trains running in the New Year. Now that the outside yard work has been put away for the winter and our travels are completed for a while, I think I'll actually be able to get back down there soon. I'm sure y'all have similar model railroading plans as well for the winter months.

As I write this, I've cleared a spot in our living room to setup the Christmas tree. After that's up and all the lights are working, I'll have to decide whether we will have the G Scale train setup to go round-and-round the base of the tree, or the HO scale back-and-forth trolley line in front of it, or maybe the N scale winter module on an end table beside it. If all the decisions in our lives were as easy as making that one, our lives would be much simpler. Maybe that's one of the reasons Model Railroading is so much fun.

Barbara & I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing everyone in 2020!

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

By Bob Dawson, Clerk

The meeting was held on November 14th at the Southern Indiana Railroad Club in Jeffersonville, IN. The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Superintendent Fred Soward. Attendance was 30; all officers with the exception of Clerk Bob Dawson were present. New member Jacob Butler was welcomed. Fred thanked the Southern Indiana Railroad for hosting our meeting.

Russ Weis said he will provide refreshments for January and would be sending around a sign-up sheet for the remainder of the year. Fred Soward reminded everyone about the Christmas/End of Year Celebration. It will be December 7th at the Crowne Plaza hotel. Mike Berry said the K&I Model Railroad Club have moved their old layout into their new club building. The K&I Traveling Layout will be on display at the Southwest Library from December 23rd to January 5th.

Joe Fields asked if the monthly contest entry form could be filled out online. Fred Soward said he is working on it and hopefully online sign-up will be available soon.

TIME TABLE

Dec 7, 5 PM, Christmas Party, Crowne Plaza.

-----2020-----

Jan 18, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

Jan 11-12 Great Train Show, Ky. Expo Center.

Feb 15, Sat 2 PM, Antique & Toy Mall

Mar 19, Thu 7 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

Mar 21, Sat 10 to 3 Div 8 Train Show

Apr 18, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST*Barry Christensen Contest Chairmen*

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

There were 12 displays and dioramas entered into the November edition of the Charlie Keeling Model Contest with three for display only and nine for voting, by far a recent record for this category. Rick Geerts took first place with his Racers Performance Machine. Second place was a tie between Joe Fields for his converted boxcar diorama and Daryl Arend for his employee retreat. Bill Lynch was third with his river camp boxcar.

Rick used two Pikestuff kits and two Walthers kits to scratch build a highly detailed "RPM" with additional styrene forms, many scenic products and even home-made signs to create a very detailed and colorful diorama.

So we end 2019 with these contest standings: Joe Fields is first with 13 points; Rick Geerts is second with 10; Bill Lynch is third with 8; Steve Lasher with 5; Daryl Arend, Kevin Jones and Bob Johnson with 3; Edward Brennan, John Stoltz and Russ Weis with 2; and Bob Frankrone, Bob Kuchler, Mark Norman and Stan White with 1.

Daryl Arend won the Scale Reproductions gift card.

There will be no contest in December due to the annual holiday gathering. The contest at the January, 2020 meeting will be for freight cars. There will be blank contest entry forms for anyone who needs one at the meeting. You can save yourself some time at the meeting by downloading the entry form from the Division 8 website and completing it prior to arriving at the meeting.

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. Below: 2019 January Contest Winner

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER—HOLIDAY PARTY**

The next Division meeting is Saturday January 18, 2 PM, at the 600 Room.

MAINTENANCE TIES FUND 2019

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: \$50, Ed Brennan; \$44, Jim Kuzirian; \$40, Stephen Taylor; \$30, John Czerwinski; \$10 Don Fowler.

MEMBER WELFARE AND BREAVEMENT

Elizabeth "Betty" L. Guenther 78, wife of Tom Guenther, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, November 23, 2019. Our condolences to Tom and his family.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

K&I MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The K&I Travelling layout will be at the Southwest Regional Library in Valley Station for a week beginning December 23rd. See Page 8 for details.

Above: A photo from last year.



NOVEMBER MEETING at the Southern Indiana Railroad Club

That's Mike Berry on the left, reading the Treasurer's Report. As you can see, everyone is listening intently.

Photos by Fred Soward

NOVEMBER CONTEST

Right: Rick Geerts took first place with his Racers Performance Machine Shop. See page 2, Charlie Keeling Contest article for details.

Photo by Fred Soward



Left: Bob Frankrone watching Mark Norman, MMR, make final adjustments to "Corleone Cement" just prior to the meeting.

Right:

A refinery on the Southern Indiana Layout.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Right: Fred Soward presented Joe Fields (on the left in the yellow Division 8 polo shirt) with his Chief Dispatcher certificate at the meeting. With this certificate, Joe is more than half way toward becoming a Master Model Railroader (MMR).

Photo by Barbara Soward



THE BOXCAR CHALLENGE

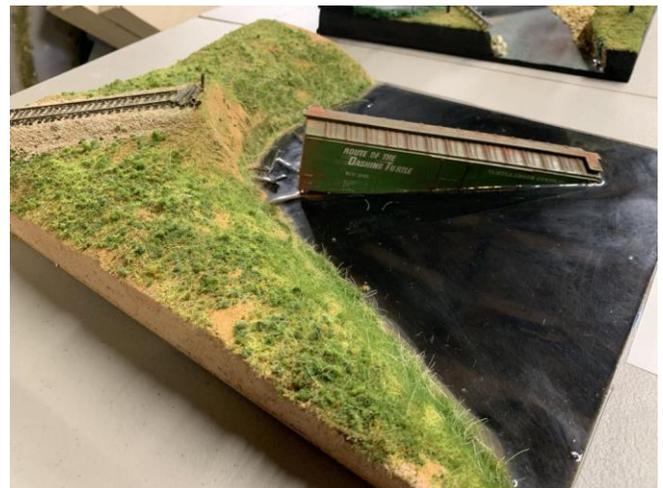
By Fred Soward, Photos by Fred Soward

Almost a year ago our Division 8 MCR NMRA Louisville, KY superintendent issued a challenge to our membership to create a unique display/diorama using a provided HO scale boxcar and a 1 foot square piece of masonite as a base. Nine of our members displayed their work at the November Division 8 meeting. Some displays were entered in the Model Contest others were displayed only.



Left: Those who accepted the challenge:

From left to right - Bill Lynch, Bob Kuchler, Tom Guenther, Barbara Soward, Daryl Arend, Joe Fields, Fred Soward, Mark Norman, and Stan White.



Above Left: Bill Lynch's River Camp. Above Right: Bob Kuchler's boxcar taking a dip.



Left: Tom Guenther's country store about to slide away.

Right: Barbara Soward's entry an HO scale representation of "The Boxcar Children" book by Gertrude Chandler Warner

(Boxcar Challenge is continued on page 5)



BOXCAR CHALLENGE (continued)



Above left: Daryl Arend built an Employee Retreat. Above right: Joe Fields turned his boxcar into a bridge.



Above left: Fred Soward's solution to the boxcar challenge is a Backyard BBQ & Pool Party. Above right: Mark Norman's "Creek's End" mini-mall.



Left: Stan White's entry in the 1x1 boxcar challenge was a walking bridge over a creek.

THE TAKE-AWAY!

This was a great example of giving very few directions and seeing what the imagination can bring out. For most, it was delving into areas of modeling they'd never taken on before. Interestingly, every entry had something to do with water.

BLACKTOP AIN'T BLACK!

By Steve Lasher



What? NOT Black, you say! Nope, not even close. But why do I say this you ask. Well...just go out and look at it. Unless it's recently placed and brand new it's some shade of gray with all sorts of different color stains from patches to leaks to well you name it, and it's out there somewhere.

Left: Street scene on Ray and Renee Grosser's HO layout, since dismantled. *Photo by Bob Dawson*

I've been fortunate enough in the last few years to do very well at the Division 8 monthly contests (thanks folks) and so I think you all (Y'all, maybe) know that I strive for believable realism. The principal way I achieve this is by looking at things as they are, not what I think they are.

So, if you want to improve your modeling and you care about realism, here are a few suggestions.

Blacktop is a great place to start. Go take a critical look at any street or parking lot and note what you actually "see". Skid marks perhaps or various stains. A faint dark line down the middle of a lane sets off a road or street. Take a good critical look and see what you notice.

Almost all buildings will show some ground splash from rain spraying up dirt at the foundation. Roofs will almost always have some evidence of staining either from algae stains, patches, or bird droppings, etc.

Carry this through to all of your modeling and you'll notice things begin to transition from toy like to remarkably realistic.

Now, the next item is – how do I reproduce these things? My suggestion is to learn some basic techniques and become comfortable with them. My personal favorites are very thinned washes with Model Master enamels and chinks fixed with Tamiya "Clear Flat" or good old "Dullcoat". They are almost bulletproof but I would still suggest practicing on things of no value - there is a learning curve here even if they are very forgiving. I've had some good luck lately with Tamiya "Panel Lining Washes". Now these are very thin enamels and will react with some paints so try them out on an invisible area first. Oils and airbrushing are skills that can be mastered but they aren't very forgiving and are easily overdone. Try it – practice it and you can eventually master it. Just remember, subtle is much more saleable than garish. Aim for subtle.

Right: A yard office that Steve detailed for Russ Weis's HO NYC layout.

Photo by Russ Weis

A final thought. Make sure you reproduce things as you actually see them and not as you think they are from memory. Trust me, your memory lies like a dog!





FALL 2019 TRAIN SHOW AND SALE

Photos by Bob Dawson

This was our first show at the Holy Family Parish Saffin Center. Attendance was an all-time high. A detailed report will be presented at the January Meeting.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our show a great success.



Division 8, MCR, NMRA

<http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/>

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<http://www.facebook.com/Division8.MCR.NMRA/>

THE PIE CARD

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MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

JOIN us at the
Southwest Public Library

MONDAY DECEMBER 23RD
 to
 SUNDAY JANUARY 5TH

The K & I will display and operate our HO and Thomas & Friends Layouts during normal Library Hours

SPECIAL EVENT DECEMBER 28TH
Rails to Valley Station: Yesterday & Today
2:00 to 3:00 PM
Presented by Bob Dawson

9725 Dixie Highway
 Louisville, KY 40272
ADMISSION TO THE EVENTS ARE FREE
Parking is FREE

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