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# The Pie Card

Volume 53, June 2019, Number 6



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association

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## **From the Superintendent's Desk**

*By Fred Soward*

We had a good time at the Mid-Central Region Convention in Boardman, OH, earlier this month, learning new things, visiting with old friends and making new friends, but it's great to be back in L'ville! The entire Division 8 contingent, along with several Division 10 folx, left the Saturday

evening reception, watched the running of Derby 145, checked our wagers, and celebrated the winner! Then, as the salad was being served at dinner about 30 minutes later, all our mobile phones started pinging and you know the rest of THAT story.

Even though not many of our Division 8 members attended the convention, we were well represented with our participation. Cecil Stewart walked away with a stack of awards and certificates for structures, locomotives, and cars entered in the contest. I think Brenda had to help him with carrying all of it after the awards dinner that nite. Joe Martin was an integral team member in the large T-Trak layout. Between Bob Frankrone and myself, we presented seven of the 39 rail clinics.

Something relatively new this year was having vendors in the layout rooms. While we had the folx from TCS at our 2017 convention, this convention provided the opportunity to speak directly with people from companies selling electronics, custom decals, laser-cut building kits, T-Trak modules, undecorated locomotive and freight car shells, and more. I need to follow-up with two of the vendors about layout controls and custom decals for the Santa Cruz & Felton in the very near future.

Of the 15 home and club layouts available for visits on the way home, Barbara and I were able to spend time at three of them. Mike Farrow's N scale layout depicting the Norfolk & Western's Pocahontas Division has a lot of detail and is huge. Although there are already several large stands of forested areas on the layout, he showed us a rack with 1,000 completed and ready to install trees and told us there are many more trees yet to be completed. Steve Zapytowski's HO scale Tillamook & Astoria is set in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and while exquisitely detailed, it's the electronics and sound system that fascinated me. I've never seen cleaner looking control panels than Steve's. Ott Gangl's HO scale Cadiz & Ohio layout has been around for quite a while. At first glance, it's a very nice, smooth running layout with quite a lot of detail waiting to be found. A bit of talking with Ott and we discovered treasures on, under, and off the layout we'd never imagine!

Next year's MCR Convention is in Pittsburgh, hosted by Division 2, the Keystone Division, May 28-31 (<https://www.keystonedivision.org/convention>). Make plans now to attend what should be a really good time. Barbara has her own take on this year's convention later in this issue of the Pie Card so be sure to check that out.

## **MAY MEETING REPORT**

*By Bob Dawson, Division Clerk*

The meeting was held Saturday May 18, 2 PM, at the 600 Room, 600 N. Hurstbourne Pkwy. Attendance was 29. Member badges were available for pickup at the meeting. Membership Chairman Cecil Stewart reported that we have 126 members. Several new members joined NMRA since the last meeting; they are: Darrell Maples, John Wesson, Joe Rateau, Tim Yurt, Mike Dockwiller, Roger Dospil, Ron Stielberg, Ernie Julian, and Nathan Lhamon.

Ron Ellison announced that an additional space at Holy Family has been rented for the Fall Train Show. This will provide more room for layouts and dealer over-flow. Mark Hedge said 34 tables have been reserved to date with 33 paid for. (Continued on page 2)

## **TIME TABLE**

**Jun 15**, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

**Jul 20**, Sat, Picnic, Salem Depot.

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

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

**Oct 19**, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

**Nov 14**, Thur 7:30 PM, Div 8 Mtg. Southern Indiana Club

**Nov 16**, Sat 10 to 3, Div 8 Train Show

**Dec**, Holiday Party, TBA

**CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST**

Barry Christensen and Bob Kuchler Contest Co-Chairmen

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
March	Structures
April	Passenger Cars
May	Cabooses

There were seven models in HO, O and G scales entered into the caboose competition for the May 2019 Charlie Keeling Model Contest. John Stoltz won first place with his wood caboose scratch-built in HO scale from Northeast Scale products. Steve Lasher placed second with his HO scale Illinois Central extended vision caboose. There was a tie for third between Bill Lynch with his HO scale Norfolk Southern caboose and Rick Maloney with his G scale bobber caboose. John assembled his caboose with siding and strip wood, adding hand-formed railings and grab irons. The roof is 80-grit sandpaper, with arch bar electric pickup trucks connected to interior and marker lights.

Current contest standings are: John Stoltz maintains his first place status with 21 points; Steve Lasher pulled into second with 17 points; Bill Lynch is third with 16 points, Joe Fields is right behind with 15 points; then Rick Maloney with 11; Bob Johnson with 9; Bob Frankrone with 6; Ron Ellison and Cecil Stewart with 4; Joe Martin and Mike Shane with 3; Patrick Hardesty with 2; and John Czerwinski, Rob Johnson, Russell Weis, Chris Broughton, and Tom Guenther with 1. Russell Weis won the Scale Reproductions gift card.

The contest at the June meeting will be for open loads. 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.

Contest pictures are on page 3.

**JUNE MEETING INFORMATION**

The June meeting is 2 PM Saturday June 15 at the 600 Room, first floor of the 600 Building, 600 N. Hurstbourne Pkwy. 40222. Use the Whittington Pkwy. entrance. Program: Mike Berry, "What's an Arduino and why should you care?" Bob and Ramona Johnson are providing refreshments.

**JUNE LAYOUT TOUR**

Daryl Arend's layout will be open after the meeting. Details on page 7.

**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: \$40, Stephen Taylor, \$20, John Czerwinski; \$22, Jim Kuzirian.

**MEMBER WELFARE AND BREAVEMENT**

Chairman Rick Wehr reports that a card was sent to Joe Vetter who is in hospice. A sympathy card was sent to Frank Becker whose wife Barbara passed away. It was learned that NMRA life member and former Division 8 member Roy Mantoath passed away. He was living in Tennessee.

Joe Fields had knee surgery the day before the meeting, but with the help of his wife (Joe wasn't allowed to drive) he made it to the meeting

**MEETING REPORT (continued from page 1)**

Mike reminded members to make their reservations for our picnic in July (details on page 8 of this issue).

Fred Soward said Cecil Stewart came away with an arm load of awards from the Mid-Central Region Convention (see page 5). Barry Christensen reported on the 150<sup>th</sup> Golden Spike Anniversary celebration in Utah that he and Robin White Attended.

Following the business meeting, Stan White demonstrated his techniques for weathering freight car roofs. Contest report is on page 2. The minutes for the June meeting are posted on the Division Website.



**JUNE CONTEST**

Left: John Stoltz's first place HO T&E. Caboose.

Right: Steve Lasher won second place with his Illinois Central extended vision caboose.

Below and below right: Tied third place finishers Bill Lynch's HO Norfolk Southern caboose and Rick Maloney's with G scale LH&SR bobber caboose.



Left: Stan White's clinic on weathering freight car roofs.

**MCR 2019-ON THE WAY HOME**

By Barbara Soward

Photos by Fred Soward

It's Saturday afternoon; clinics are over, and we are waiting for the Convention reception and banquet. I am busy picking my Derby horse(s), and Fred is doing his usual meticulous job of planning our layout tour. He reads the descriptions of the layouts and looks at the photographs. He studies the map intently, trying to decide which layouts we can see, giving consideration to the descriptions, photographs, times that the layouts are open, the proximity to our homeward bound path, and recommendations we both received from those who are familiar with the layouts. He chooses three layouts and the order in which to see them, with a couple of possible additions if time permits.



Fast forward to Sunday morning. Fred goes to the Superintendents' breakfast and I wander off to Burger King. When he returns, I have everything loaded on to the luggage cart and am ready to load the Odyssey and hit the road. The layouts to which we are headed are each at least 30 minutes from the previous, off mostly rural roads, but nice drives and no wrong turns.

Left: Mike Farrow layout

The first layout we visit belongs to Mike Farrow, a home builder. This one came highly recommended and for good reason. It is easily one of the largest and most intricately detailed N scale layouts I have seen. Fred mentioned Mike's "forest" in his column; Mike makes trees when watching television and he had quite a stash waiting to be planted! In addition to the amazing structures on the layout, one of the things that caught my eye was the "paint scheme" on the floor—basically, the floor underneath the layout was painted the same dark color as the fascia, giving the illusion of a distinct path through the layout. When I inquired about it, Mike laughed, and said that he marked off the layout with a (permanent) marker on the concrete floor, and then couldn't get it to come off! He decided that painting the entire area looked much better than just a black line. I agree! I thought it was a neat touch!

The second layout we visited belonged to Steve Zapytowski, one of the Region's newest MMRs. He, too, had some wonderfully detailed scenes on his layout, but also some intriguing electronics. As you enter the layout room, you are greeted by wonderful outdoor sounds, particularly bird songs, that bring you right into the scenes. You are surrounded by these sounds of nature and you really can't identify

Right: Steve Zapytowski

from whence they come! He showed us the little electronic gizmos attached to the backdrop that were generating the sounds, all controlled by computer software! He also had some very nice looking panels (concealing some very neat electrical wiring) with push buttons that activated the turnouts. The panels were hinged for easy access when troubleshooting-- a feature that I think is a clever touch. Steve's background is in theater and he carried the skills from set design into his layout as well as his home, which is filled with hand crafted furniture that he made himself!



Our third stop took us to visit Ott Gangl, a photographer whose career was in photojournalism. His layout had multiple levels, "lots of hydrocal," he said. Ott had some fascinating electronics, including circuit boards for controlling his signals and turnouts, and under-the-layout electromagnetic uncouplers that he manufactured himself. He explained that his electrical experiences began at the early age of six when he built his first shortwave radio and attributes his electrical skills in part to working with his father who was an electrician in Bavaria. Ott is no longer a member of the NMRA, but

(Continued to page 5)



he continues to get calls to participate in Open Houses and layout tours and it's easy to understand why when you see his layout. Model railroading became his escape from some of the not-so-pleasant photography assignments. After documenting depressing stories for the news with his camera, he would retreat to his model railroad world. While Ott was showing me his schematic drawings for his circuit boards, another couple arrived to tour the layout. Our apologies to them for stealing the host away, but we had no idea what would happen next. I casually mentioned Fred's interest in

Left: Barbara Soward with Ott Gangl. Barbara is holding a photo of Cindi Lauper taken by Ott.

photography, and Ott told the other couple to go ahead and look around as he led us out of the basement, through his home, and up some stairs until we reached a closed door. He opened the door and with twinkling eyes and a smile, he shared with us another passion--his studio/gallery, which was 2 stories tall, walls covered with his life's work, photos from presidents to rock stars to Olympians and so much more! We saw pictures he had taken of Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, Carter, Whitney Houston, Bruce Springsteen, Cyndi Lauper, Mickey Rooney, Olga Korbut---the list goes on and on! We could have spent days looking through his collection. He was a fascinating gentleman with whom to talk, both about his railroad and his photography. We visited his layout the day before his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday and learned that another passion for him was snow skiing; he and his wife are both certified ski instructors, giving up skiing just 2 years ago---you do the math!

Model railroaders are an interesting mix. You never know what you might find out about the person behind the railroad. On a layout tour a few years ago, we met the man who developed the prototype machine for making the Pringles potato chip. This year, we met a man who recorded history through his camera lens. I'm sure there will be others. Who knows? Maybe someday we'll get to meet Rod Stewart!



Left:

Please join us in congratulating our Membership Chairman, Cecil Stewart, for his modeling efforts announced at tonight's NMRA Mid-Central Region's convention banquet. Cecil walked away with people's choice favorite structure, 1st place structures, 2nd place diesels, 3rd place caboose, 3rd place structures, and a special modeling achievement award from Railroading in America Magazine.

Right: Some of Cecil's award winning entries.



**T-TRAK AT THE 2019 MID CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION**

By Joe Martin



Over the days from May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 33 members from a majority of the twelve divisions of the Mid Central Region brought their T-Trak modules together to hook up for a layout to be displayed at the Mid Central Region (MCR) Convention in Boardman, Ohio. This was the first time the MCR had the T-Trak display at their convention. Credit goes to Bruce DeMaeyer, the Mid Central Region T-Trak Coordinator, for spreading the word around about the T-Trak concept and encouraging those in the Region to participate, as well as the Individual Division volunteers to be points of contact to get information and modules to the Convention:

The layout area consisted of an E shape configuration. Using six foot tables, the overall area consisted of a center spine 24 feet long and each leg 24 feet long. Using the width of the center spine, that made each leg 24.5 feet long. Unfortunately, not all the length was used on each leg. The longest looked to be close to 20 feet, while the others looked 12-16 feet long. A total of 68 modules were used to make up the layout. Calculating the distance to scale miles, the outside was about 4.5 with the inside 4.1. There were no special loops, so both inside and outside mains went around the whole layout.

Thankfully, CMR Products was there as a vendor, and was gracious enough to loan their specialty straight gap filling modules. Three of the 36 Doubles used were the specialty T-Trak logo bridges made by Red River Models.

During Friday evening, module judging was performed for all modules with a special category made available for T-Trak modules only. In addition, there were people's choices awards for best module, and models, etc. Here are the MCR members taking home hardware for their efforts:

Robert Osburn of Division 9 – Module Best of Show for his three module set featuring a corner module of a Drive-In Theater, and two double modules consisting of Ace Laboratories and a Shell oil distributor.

Right: Robert Osburn's Shell Oil Module.

Mike DeSensi, Division 2. Took First Place in T-Trak Category with his module depicting Santa Fe's San Bernardino Station.



Left: Mike DeSensi's San Bernardino Station.

Photos by Joe Martin





**JUNE OPEN LAYOUT**

Daryl Arend's Beechwood & Butchertown HO layout will be open following the June meeting. It will be open until 6 PM.

Daryl's address is 6703 Tottenham Rd. 40207. From the 600 Building:

- South on Whittington Pkwy. to Shelbyville Road.
- Right on Shelbyville Road to Watterson Expressway.
- Right onto Watterson Expressway to Westport Rd.
- Left on Westport Rd. to Ambridge Dr.
- Right on Ambridge Dr. to Tottenham Rd.
- Left on Tottenham Rd., 6703 is on your right.

*Photo by Bob Dawson*

**TRACKSIDE WITH ROBIN WHITE**

Right: Wednesday, May 8, UP 4014 + UP 844 drifting into a stop at Echo, UT – on time – in the rain and crowds.

Robin took this photo while he and Barry Christensen were attending the 150<sup>th</sup> Golden Spike Celebration in Utah.



**TRACKSIDE WITH BARRY CHRISTENSEN**

Left: Spectators gathering around the Central Pacific Jupiter and Union Pacific 119 replicas at the beginning of the festivities at the Golden Spike National Historical Park in Promontory Point, Utah, on Friday May 10.

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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.

**DIVISION 8 PICNIC  
SATURDAY  
JULY 20, 2019**

**DEPOT MUSEUM  
306 South College Avenue  
Salem, IN 47167-1304  
(812) 883-1884**

**WE WILL GATHER STARTING AT 11:00 AM  
and EAT AT NOON. AWARDS FOR THE  
MODEL CONTEST WILL BE PRESENTED.**

There will be plenty of time to enjoy the fellowship, good food, and tour the museum displays and operating model railroad.

**\$5.00/PERSON, PAYABLE AT THE PICNIC**

Menu will include Burgers, Hot Dogs, Pork BBQ, baked beans, potato salad, iced tea (sweet and un sweet) and lemonade.

**RESERVATIONS: Call Mike Berry by July 7**  
(so we can give the headcount to the caterer).

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