

The Pie Card

Volume 54, April, 2020, Number 4



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

We sincerely hope that everyone reading this as well as their families are safe, doing well, and are unaffected by novel coronavirus/COVID-19.

Thank you to everyone involved in cancelling our meeting and Train Show & Sale last month, especially the people responsible for getting the word out to our members, our dealers, and the public. The concern exhibited by this group by getting ahead of government-enforced closures is remarkable and allowed our people to plan well ahead of the curve. Thank you also to all Division 8 members for supporting the actions that were taken. As we all know, cancelling both the meeting and Train Show & Sale was something no one expected to happen and not an action anyone really wanted to take.

As we wait out this significant event in our lives, we will continue to keep you posted about changes to our Division 8 timetable as we know them. In the meantime, I hope you can take advantage of this "social distancing" world we now live in to spend some quality time with your layout, your other model railroad projects, and with your family. On behalf of the entire BoD, we hope to be able to see all of you in good health at an upcoming Division 8 event in the near future.

Change

Whenever someone proposes a change, I ask myself several questions. Is it broke? Does it need to be improved? Is it OK just the way it is right now?

Who knew back in the 1980's that we'd be able to control our layouts (turnouts, signaling, and more) with Layout Command Control (LCC) and at the same time we'd be able to use Digital Command Control (DCC) to control multiple locomotives? Who knew back in the 1990's that we'd be able to control our trains with a wireless connection from our telephones and that we'd be walking around with our telephones in our pockets? Who knew back in the early 2000's that we'd be able to buy off-the-shelf rolling stock with metal wheelsets and knuckle couplers as the default or that the default level of detail on locomotives and rolling stock straight out of the box would be as good as we see today?

What do all these things have in common? They're all about change. I was once told by a senior US Army leader during a briefing, "The world is written on acetate." When he said that, I chuckled to myself because even then we were beginning to use digital maps and electronic forms in our operations group instead of acetate and plastic overlays with grease pencils.

There's a caveat, tho – just because it can be changed doesn't mean it should be changed. Sometimes, the way it's always been is just fine, as long as everyone involved acknowledges that it makes sense to not make the change. Consider this – Barbara and I are creating handlaid, scratchbuilt turnouts to be used on our model railroad that will likely incorporate aspects of LCC, DCC, and Arduino technologies to sit on top of L-girder benchwork (a concept developed by Linn Westcott more than 50 years ago). Old, new, old. It's a good mix of what we feel is the best of the best that's available today.

Before making changes to a layout or established operating sessions, seriously consider the above – does it really need to be changed or is it just fine the way it is right now?

As you read through this issue of the Pie Card, you will read about several changes being put in place for Division 8. Almost all the changes were suggested to the BoD in over the last year. It's taken a lot of talking and investigating to get us to the point where we can begin rolling out these changes. As always, let us know if there's a change or modification to the way we do business that you feel would be beneficial for the group.

TIME TABLE

Apr 18, MEETING CANCELLED

May 16, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

May 28-31 MCR Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

Jun 20, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

Jul 12-18 NMRA Convention, St. Louis, MO

July 25, Sat Noon, Div 8 Picnic, Indiana Live Steamers, Edinburgh, IN.

Aug 15, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

Sep 12, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

Sep 19-20, Sat-Sun, Div 8 Louisville Train Days, Holy Family Parish Saffin Center

Oct 15, Thur, 7PM Southern Indiana Club, Jeffersonville, IN.

Nov 7, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.

Nov 14, Sat 10 to 3 Div 8 Train Show & Sale, Holy Family Parish Saffin Center

Dec 5, Sat 5 PM, Div 8 Christmas Party, Crowne Plaza.

CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST*Barry Christensen Contest Chairmen*

March	Structures (meeting cancelled)*
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

*The March and April contests will be combined with another at a future date to be announced.

CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST SURVEY UPDATE*By Bob Frankrone*

A big "Thank You" to the 40 members who completed the Division 8 survey regarding our monthly contest. The purpose of the survey was to determine if the membership wanted to make any changes or improvements to the contest. Many good comments and suggestions were received. Barry Christensen and I are compiling the responses from that survey and we will make recommendations to the Throttle Committee based on those responses. If all goes as planned, we will be able to publish the results at the next Division Eight meeting.

FALL TRAIN SHOW

While our Spring Train Show and Sale was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Virus, plans are moving ahead for our Fall Show, November 14.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE*By Ron Ellison*

A new committee has been formed by the Board of Directors to review our bylaws. The purpose of the committee is to:

- Make sure our bylaws are in sync with the region and national bylaws
- Revise our bylaws to allow us to vote via electronic ballot rather than a mail in paper ballot
- Make it possible to have an election by acclamation when an individual or individuals are running unopposed at the end of the nominating process

Everyone has had the opportunity to use online voting by ElectionBuddy. We sent a survey early in March asking for your input on the monthly modeling contest using ElectionBuddy. We plan to use ElectionBuddy for the Silver Spike voting. And once we amend and approve the bylaws to allow for electronic voting we will use it for the next election of officers and trustees. The NMRA is also using ElectionBuddy and you probably have already used it.

You can access our current Bylaws anytime on the Division 8 webpage under the "About" tab.



APRIL MEETING CANCELLED. Out of an abundance of caution for our members, the April 2020 meeting is cancelled. We are working on alternative solutions (online live broadcast or pre-recorded business meeting and presentation) and will notify members through email.

DIVISION 8 ELECTIONS*Reported by Mark Norman*

The ballots were counted by the Tellers with the following results:

Superintendent: Fred Soward
 Assistant Superintendent: Eric Waggoner
 Treasurer: Mike Berry
 Clerk: Bob Dawson
 Trustee: Tom Guenther

MAINTENANCE TIES FUND 2020

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: \$30, Ed Brennan; \$25, Stephen Taylor; \$11, James Kuzirian.

MEETING PROGRAMS

Do you have a modeling technique you would like to share with your fellow members? Have you visited an interesting layout, taken a railfan trip, or a rail or model railroad convention and have pictures? Program Chairman Russ Weis needs you. See Russ at a meeting to volunteer.

FATHER OF BRENDA STEWART

Our condolences to Brenda Stewart and her family upon the loss of her father, Wallace Lee Burns. Mr. Burns passed away on March 10 at 93 years of age. He was a World War II veteran.

CORRECTION TO MARCH PIE CARD

In "Pike Showcase" on page 4 of the March Pie Card the caption under the picture, "Allied Rail Rebuilders on Ron Downs' N Scale Railroad. Ron models L & N, Southern and Interstate in Southwest Virginia", should have read, "Allied Rail Rebuilders on Stan White's HO Norfolk Southern RR".

MARCH MEETING REPORT

The March Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) pandemic.

CHANGE—MEETINGS

By Superintendent Fred Soward

Agenda Revisions

We're changing the meeting agenda. Don't worry. Some things will be shuffled around on the agenda, a few things will seem to disappear, and we'll be adding something as well. As you read through the other "change" articles in this issue of the Pie Card, you'll already be aware of some of these agenda changes.

These topics are being moved to Groups.io for announcement and discussion and will also have a monthly column in the Pie Card: Member Welfare and Bereavement; Pie Card; Company Store; Club News; Information to Share for the Good of the Membership; Announcements.

Several members over the last two years have asked that we extend the time for viewing and voting on contest entries. These same members asked that we not extend the time for the business meeting. If those two are requirements, we must take time from somewhere in the agenda. Groups.IO and the Pie Card are the two logical choices.

The information is valuable to every member of Division 8. By sharing it only during the meeting, a lot of our members do not get the information. Sharing it through Groups.IO means it is more immediate, while sharing it in the Pie Card ensures everyone can read about it. Lastly, moving these agenda items from the face-to-face meeting to online resources shrinks the time needed for the business meeting.

As detailed in a separate article in this issue, we are adding a Back to Basics segment immediately after the conclusion of the business meeting and prior to refreshments/contest voting. This segment will be no longer than five minutes. If it goes one second longer than five minutes, it'll be just like the Academy Awards – the orchestra will start playing!

We're adding time to the refreshments, visiting, and contest voting. We'll start with 15 minutes and extend that to 20 minutes if we need to. But it'll be at least a 15-minute break.

We would like everyone to use Groups.IO to share information about the topics we are moving out of the meeting agenda and to be active in Groups.IO. To be absolutely clear: you do not need to be a member of Groups.IO to be a member of Division 8, the Mid Central Region, or the NMRA. We will also be flexible in implementing these changes. We truly believe they will benefit the membership by making the business meeting quicker and by making all the information we had been sharing in the meeting available to everyone in Division 8.

Back to Basics

No, we're not going back to the basics with the entire meeting. But, one of the changes we're implementing when we start meeting face-to-face again is a "Back to Basics" segment during each meeting.

The concept is not new; I've been a member of other groups that had similar presentations during their meetings. The idea is to cover some of the basic concepts about both prototype and model railroading and to cover them in a quick segment prior to the main presentation. For new-to-the-hobby people, this is a great way for them to get some background about basic topics. For those of us who have been around for a while, it's a great opportunity to get the real story about some things that we have either forgotten or just didn't know in the first place. It might even fill in a gap in your knowledge that you didn't know about.

To kick this off, I'll be doing the first few Back to Basics segments. We are looking for volunteers for future topics. It will be on the agenda just before we break for refreshments and contest voting. That should keep it real short! The segment will not be longer than five minutes. Topics we expect to cover include types of couplers, rail sizes, rail parts and history, and freight & passenger truck types. We have a much longer list, but what we'd really like is to hear from you – other than telling someone brand new to the hobby that this is the greatest hobby in the world and that Model Railroading is fun, what are some basic topics you would want that person to know about your hobby?

One of the things I consistently hear from members is that we need to cover more model railroad topics. This is just one more way for us to make that happen at every meeting.

See Change, Page 5

DIVISION 8 CONGRATULATES TWO NEW MMR'S



CHRIS BROUGHTON MMR #650

Please join us in congratulating Chris Broughton for successfully completing all requirements for "Master Model Railroader." Chris is MMR #650, effective January 21, 2020. Besides his Golden Spike Award, Chris also received Achievement Program certificates for Locomotives, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, and Author.



BOB KUCHLER MMR #653

Please join us in congratulating Bob Kuchler for successfully completing all requirements for "Master Model Railroader." Bob is MMR #653, effective March 21, 2020. In addition to receiving his Golden Spike Award, Bob also received Achievement Program certificates for Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, Volunteer, and Author.

Chris and Bob are the eighth and ninth Division 8 members to become MMRs. We now have five active and participating MMRs in the Division. What a great time to start working on your own path to becoming a Master Model Railroader. There will be a formal presentation and celebration of their achievements at a future meeting.

Please join us in congratulating our Achievement Program Chairman Joe Fields for successfully completing all requirements for "Model Railroad Engineer - Civil." To make this happen, Joe created an original scale drawing of a model railroad track plan, constructed and operated more than 50 feet of HO scale track work, and scratch built three different types of track work (switch/turnout, crossover, and a scale track).



What are YOU working on during this worldwide event?

Here are some of the projects your fellow members are working on while "social distancing".

Bob Kuchler is adding to his railroad. This involved two to three days applying Hydrocal.

See What, Page 6



Change, continued from Page 3

GROUPS.IO

By Media Committee Chairman Ron Ellison

We are getting ready to roll out a Division 8 email group. You may already have experience with Groups.io. But if not, we will help you to get signed up and signed in.

Groups.io is a freemium service - meaning it is free. There are no ads and there is no ad tracking of your interaction with the app. And unlike other social media apps, there are no suggestions to you about taking any kind of action. You can easily mute topics or hashtags (keywords). You can customize how and when you receive messages. It is a private group and there is no interaction with anyone not a member of Division 8.

The primary intent of the group is to inform members of Division 8 about NMRA, MCR, Division 8 activities and functions. Other appropriate topics include prototype and model railroading activities of general interest to the group. Especially as they relate to areas near Division 8. The group will be moderated by the Media Committee - Fred Soward, Tom Guenther and Ron Ellison. Moderation means that topics not related to the intent of the group will be removed by the moderators.

There are some additional features like a calendar, files section where you can retrieve a file of some common interest and download it, a directory of members of the group, and more.

We think it is a valuable tool to share information delivered to you as you like it. And we hope to use the group to save meeting time for announcements and information for the good of the hobby. And for things that come up that may not be able to wait until the next meeting or *The Pie Card*.

We hope you will want to participate and find it useful. (For more opportunities to share information see **KEEP CONNECTED** on page 8).

MEMBERSHIP REPORTING AND RETENTION

By Eric Waggoner

We will no longer be giving a membership report during the monthly Division 8 meeting. Instead, we'll be providing a more comprehensive report in a monthly Pie Card column. Expect to see the count as well as the names of new members who have joined us. We enjoy your company so we want to take every effort possible to make sure to reach out when a membership is about to expire as well. The NMRA sends an early reminder, but we've found by talking to people that it sometimes gets lost in the shuffle of daily life. We'll be sending last-minute email reminders when memberships are near expiration (about 30 days out) and if someone's membership does terminate, we'll do a follow-up phone call to make sure the renewal didn't just slip their mind or slip off the edge of their desk. It's happened. Trust us on that one.

Cecil Stewart, our longtime Membership Committee Chair, has decided to resign his position. The increased workload on the farm because of the passing of his father in law will no longer allow him to give the time and effort to the committee that he feels it deserves. Please join the BoD in thanking Cecil for his many years managing the committee, checking spreadsheets, contacting those who are near the end of their membership terms, and reaching out to new members as they join Division 8. Our Assistant Superintendent Eric Waggoner will assume the role of Membership Committee Chair. Please reach out to Eric if you are interested in this role. If not, he'll probably be reaching out to you soon.

As of the March report received from Mid-Central Region, Division 8 has 137 members, with eight (8) renewals and three (3) new members. Welcome to new members; Gary Bennett, Cathy Kuchler, and Joseph Legel.

COMPANY STORE

By Company Store Chairman Ron Ellison

The Company Store is open for business 24/7/365. You can shop anytime here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/store.html> .

We now take credit cards for your secure purchase. We still take cash or checks but a credit card is the preferred tender. When we have meetings again, we can process your purchase on our NEW Square terminal. Or you can email your order to Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com . We will email you back an itemized invoice and you can then call us and we will process your credit card payment over the phone using our Virtual Square Terminal. Square will send you a receipt at the time of the transaction.

Also look for big changes in the way the online store looks. All our items will be listed along with choices of color and size. Coming soon! You can pick up your items at the next meeting after they are ready. We can arrange a pickup. Or we can ship them to you via USPS. You pay the postage.

What, continued from Page 4

MASTER BUILDER—MOTIVE POWER

By Joe Fields, unless credited otherwise, photos by Joe Fields.

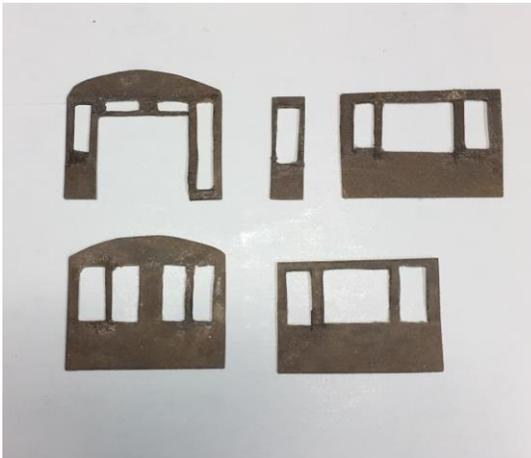
I never run out of projects. At the present I am working towards Master Builder--Motive Power in the Achievement Program. The basic requirement is to build three scale models of railroad motive power, one of which must be scratchbuilt. Motive Power is defined as a locomotive or a self-propelled vehicle. One of these is the GE 25 ton locomotive in the Lake Shore Railway & Historical Society collection in the little town of North East, PA. After contacting them and getting as much information about the little engine as I could, I began construction.

I made the body out of cardboard that I cut out to desired shapes and sizes. Then I soaked them with Super Glue by squeezing it on and spreading using a Q-Tip. I let the pieces dry and then lightly sanded them. I put the pieces together just like you would a kit. The only part of the body that is not cardboard is the top of the hood area where I used regular printer paper. I cut it to size and then soaked it with super glue. I painted it with Rust-Oleum "Sunrise Red", finished with a coat of Testors Dullcote.



Above: The prototype is a 25 ton General Electric "critter". It was built in 1950 by Erie General Electric for Pennsylvania Power Company of New Castle, PA. It was later sold to the Elmwood National Forge Company who donated it to the Lake Shore Railway & Historical Society.
Photo by LSR&HS.

The hand rails are made from wire that I measured and bent to fit. The hand rails were painted with Testors flat yellow. Detail parts that were added were from Cal-scale, Details West, and Custom finishing model products which gave me the horns, headlight, back-up light, journal boxes on the power truck side frames. Decal stripes on front and back of pilot plus numbers were Rail Graphics. The Lake Shore museum logo is from their website reduced to HO size then turned into a sticker. #5 Kadee's were used for the couplers.

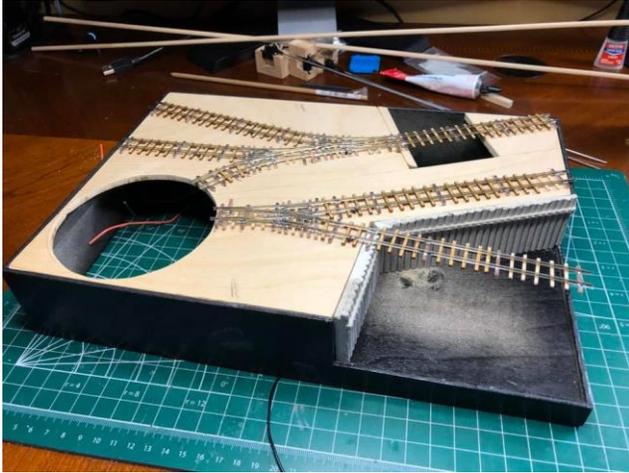


Left: Some of the parts ready for assembly. Above left: The partially completed model. Above right: Completed Model.

Right:
Another project Joe completed for the Master Builder-Motive Power requirement is this model of a Fairmont speeder. It was operated by the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, and later found its way to the Lake Shore Railway Historical Museum. The same construction methods were used as with the locomotive.



WHAT, continued from Page 6.



LAYOUT-IN-A-FOOTBALL-DISPLAY CASE

Chris Broughton, MMR, has been working on a “layout-in-a-football-display-case” micro layout. The scale is HO_n30.

Left: The layout in its early stage.

Chris reports that everything is wired and operational; the focus is now on structures, backdrop, and soon-to-be scenery.



Left:

Here is the layout’s eventual home, a 13” x 9” football display case.



Photos by Chris Broughton

TRACKSIDE WITH BILL LYNCH

It’s January 16, 2020 and we find Bill at Bargersville, IN.

Indiana Railroad Train is passing thru with two SD9043MAC’s and four Cit Leasing (CEFX) switch engines in tow.



Division 8, MCR, NMRA

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

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Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com/Division8.MCR.NMRA/>

THE PIE CARD

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KEEP CONNECTED

While we may not meet face to face, we still have a lot of good news to share. And right now, it's appearing on the Division 8 Facebook page here - <https://www.facebook.com/Division8.MCR.NMRA>. There really is some very exciting news about what some of our Division 8 members have achieved.

Take a look and then if you are not a Facebook member, bookmark the page. As a reminder, you can look at Facebook without joining. Although Facebook will do their best to convince you otherwise. If you don't want to join simply resist. If you been thinking about joining or you like what you see on the Division 8 Facebook page then signup. You just can't comment if you're not a member. And you can create a private account if you wish. No one will even know.

While we have your attention for a minute, here's a couple of other links as a reminder: You can access all the Mid Central Region newsletters from our webpage here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/links.html> There is some great information and you can look anytime

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

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

