

The Pie Card

Volume 54, August, 2020, Number 8

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

SABLE. Stash Acquired Beyond Life Expectancy. Barbara's knitting group introduced me to the term. I've always known that model railroaders have many things in common with other hobbies and that we can learn new techniques from other hobbies as well. This drives that

point a little bit closer to home. Based on what I've seen recently (Facebook, Division 8 Groups.io email list, shared through our monthly Gathering/Roundtable events), it looks like some of y'all are taking advantage of the time at home to make some dents in your own SABLE.

For most of us it's a matter of a shiny new object or "squirrel!" and then we lose track of where we place it when it gets into the house. Barbara & I have an inventory of our model railroading tools, supplies, rolling stock, locomotives, buildings, electronics, and more. It has been a daunting task to get it all entered into our electronic inventory and admittedly it is not fully completed. Having that available as a handy reference helps me focus on what is still needed for the layout (as well stopping me from buying something that is NOT needed) and it will someday help someone when it's time to dispose of it all.

As most of you know, it's been benchwork and trackwork for quite a while in our basement. There's still a lot to get done in that phase of the overall layout project. While those tasks are still the priority, I think it may be time to start working on using up some of that SABLE. Using the inventory system I mentioned above, I'll be able to prioritize building the kits into sub-projects as well.

For now, I'm back to the basement to continue work on laying down more rail & getting it painted. . . right after I order one of those new GONX gondolas just released by Arrowhead Models, of course.

JULY MEETING REPORT

Bob Dawson Division Clerk

Superintendent Fred Soward called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM on July 25, 2020. Due to restrictions imposed by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic social distancing requirements, the Division meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom video conferencing platform. All officers were in attendance. Attendance was 27.

Achievement Program Chairman Joe Fields reported that Achievement Certificates and MMR plaques were distributed at the Celebration Station event held July 19 in the 600 Building parking lot. Joe reported that Fred Soward's paperwork for Model Railroad Engineer Civil has been sent to NMRA AP Chairman Frank Koch. Joe said he has finished another structure needed to complete his requirements for Master Builder Scenery. Joe reported that he has completed 6 of the 7 requirements for Master Model Railroader.

The results of the virtual "practice" Model Contest were announced. See pages 2 & 3 for details and photos.

Fred Soward presented the Back to Basics segment, "Modern Day Rail Profile Nomenclature". Fred discussed prototype rail and model equivalents.

After a short break, Program Chairman Russ Weis introduced Gerry Albers who presented "Things I Wished I'd Known about DCC". Gerry covered the electrical components of Digital Command Control and how it is used to control locomotives and accessories on a layout. He also discussed installation and the need for good documentation. Following his presentation, he led us on a virtual tour of his Virginian Railway Deepwater District Model Railroad.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

The minutes for the July meeting are posted on the Division Web Site; go to members pages. You can also view the meeting on the Division 8 YouTube Channel.

TIME TABLE

Aug 8, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

Aug 15, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom.

Sep 19, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom.

Oct 15, Thur, 7PM On Zoom.

Nov 7, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom.

Nov 14, Sat 10 to 3, Div 8 Train Show & Sale, CANCELLED

Nov 21, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg on Zoom

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

CHARLIE KEELING VIRTUAL MODEL CONTEST*Barry Christensen Contest Chairmen*

August	MOW equipment and highway vehicles
September	Photos (model) and photos (prototype)
October	Steam locomotives
November	Displays (no size limit)
December	NO CONTEST (holiday party)
January	Freight cars
February	Non-steam motive power
March	Structures
April	Passenger cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open loads
July	NO CONTEST (picnic)

The Charlie Keeling Model Contest took a virtual test run at the July 2020 Division 8 Virtual Meeting on Saturday, July 25. The theme was cabooses and there were five entries. Joe Fields came in first with his L&N little woody O-scale caboose. Fred Soward came in second with his Santa Cruz and Felton bay window caboose. There was a three-way tie for third between Stan White with his first responder caboose, Bob Frankrone with his SOO Line bay window caboose, and Ron Ellison with his SP ICC C-50-4 bay window caboose.

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.

The 2020-2021 Charlie Keeling Model Contest year begins in August. As announced at the June General Meeting, the Monthly Contest is now virtual. The August Contest will be **MOW Equipment and Highway Equipment** and August will be the first month that counts for points.

We will send out a reminder but below are some of the Contest timeline dates for August:

- August 1st - Reminder that the last day to submit entries is 1 week away
- August 8th - Last day to submit entries
- August 12th - Members will receive the contest entries
- August 13th & 14th - Voting in Groups.io, email to Division 8 or phone, text, SMS

August 15th - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd

If you need more information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html>. Complete instructions will be posted in Groups.io or emailed to all members starting on August 1st. Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions or comments, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com.

We will publish the Contest timeline dates each month in The Pie Card.

**AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION**

The August meeting is Saturday August 15, 2:00 PM. Instead of a face-to-face meeting, the meeting will be virtual using the Zoom conferencing app. To maintain the security of the meeting, connection information will be sent directly to members by email about a week prior to the meeting and will not be published online. Ed Swain, Division 7 will describe how he modeled the PRR Lift Bridge in Louisville.

ZOOM GATHERING

This month's gathering will be August 8, 2020 at 2 PM on Zoom. Here's who and what is scheduled:

Paul Downs - Scratch built Shotgun Houses

Steve Lasher & Russ Weis - Signals on Russ Weis' NYC Layout

Fred Soward - WFD-30 NCE CAB Bus Wi-Fi Interface

Each presentation will be approximately 20 minutes including a short Q & A by each presenter. Zoom meeting information will be sent out a few days before the gathering. If you need help connecting, email division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and someone from the Media Committee will help you. We look forward to seeing you on August 8th !

Presenters for the July 11th Gathering were Mark Norman, Kevin Jones and Rick Geerts. Mark began the program by showing us how he was rebuilding and detailing an Atheme Genesis SD70M locomotive. Kevin Jones followed describing how he scratch built the body of an On30 Logging Caboose. The session concluded with Rick showing us how he built auto frame loads for flat cars. Attendance was 18.

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; \$22, James Kuzirian.

MEMBER WELFARE

Rick Wehr Chairman

There were no members or their spouses hospitalized or who passed away in July. If you know of member or member of their family that has been hospitalized or passed away, call Rick Wehr at 502-500-6398 or email him at rickwehr7@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Stan White Chairman

As of July 1st, the most recent data from the NMRA, Division 8 has 132 active members. This includes one new member, Lisa Helton, the wife of longtime member, John Helton. Welcome Lisa Helton!

JULY CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST



Our first Division 8 monthly "virtual" contest went off smoothly. This was a practice session and there will be a few tweaks before we go live in August. Photos were provided by the entrants.

Left: Joe Fields came in first with his O scale L&N Little Woody caboose.



Right: Fred Soward came in second with his HO scale Santa Cruz & Felton Railway caboose.



Tied for third place were Bob Frankrone (HO scale Soo Line caboose), Ron Ellison (HO scale Southern Pacific caboose), and Stan White (HO scale Norfolk Southern "First Responder" caboose). Honorable mention to Rick Geerts with his HO scale "abandoned caboose."



Next month's contest is Maintenance of Way Equipment & Highway Equipment.



DIVISION 8 CELEBRATION STATION

By Fred Soward



We had great success at our Sunday, July 19, 2020, Division 8 Celebration Station. Led by Trustee Ron Ellison and assisted by Superintendent Fred Soward and Division 8 member Barbara Soward, the event was held in the parking lot of the 600 Building. This is the same location where we have held our monthly business meetings and clinics for several years.

Left: Chris Broughton MMR

The purpose of the event was to celebrate recent achievements of our members. We had not been able to meet in person since our last meeting in February 2020 because of social distance restrictions so we had not been able to get the certificates and other items presented. The event allowed us to recognize the efforts of our members who have recently achieved success in the NMRA Achievement Program and our local

monthly Division 8 modeling contest. In addition to these awards, we also handed out Division 8 name badges to new members who showed up to the event. Recipients were:

- Chris Broughton: MMR Certificate, MMR plaque, MMR pin, and MMR badge, Division 8 name badge w/MMR AP Structures certificate.
- Joe Fields: AP Locomotives sand Civil Engineer certificates, Division 8 end-of-contest year certificate and gift certificate (first place).
- Rick Geerts: Division 8 end-of-contest year certificate and gift certificate (third place).
- Bob Kuchler: MMR Certificate, MMR plaque, MMR pin, and MMR badge, Division 8 name badge w/MMR, AP Cars certificate, AP Structures certificate, Six AP Merit awards.
- Cathy Kuchler: New member nametag
- Bill Lynch: Division 8 end-of-contest year certificate and gift certificate (second place).
- Joe Martin: AP Author certificate

We also took the opportunity to provide small bottles of hand sanitizer to every Division 8 member at no cost. The bottles included a small D-Ring to clip onto a belt, purse, or backpack. Additional bottles were available for purchase at good prices.

Right: Bob Kuchler MMR

Most people posed for photos, but still followed social distancing guidelines. A few people stayed and chatted, keeping their distance and wearing masks while they were there.

We expect to hold another Celebration Station event early this fall. Stay tuned for details on that event. For additional photos, check the Division 8 Facebook page.



Left: Joe Fields, first place model contest.

Many thanks to Trustee Ron Ellison, member Barbara Soward, and Superintendent Fred Soward for staffing Division 8's first time "Celebration Station" in the parking lot of the 600 Building.



Left: Division 8 Hand Sanitizer.

LOVE THOSE GONDOLAS

By Bob Frankrone

It's no secret that I like open loads. At last count, I've built over 100 loads of various shapes, sizes, and commodities. While the load itself is generally the star of an open-loaded car, it is important not to overlook the car carrying the load. For example: Scrap metal loads in gondolas are some of my favorite open loads, both model and prototype. Gondolas that are relegated to scrap-metal service are usually very worn, extremely rusted, and just plain "beat-up".

Sometimes they appear to be in as bad of shape as the scrap-metal they are hauling. Consequently, I like to heavily weather my gondolas that will be transporting scrap loads of any kind. It doesn't take very long to do, and the results really enhance the appearance of the car.

Just recently I have begun using graffiti decals in my weathering efforts. I find that Blair Line decals hold up pretty well and they are easy to work with. The graffiti decals (a lot of them) really add to the heavily-weathered look of the car.

I have taken a couple of before and after shots of two of the gondolas I recently weathered. Now imagine putting a scrap load in either of the un-weathered gondolas. No matter how good a job you do on creating the load, it would hardly look right in an un-weathered car. Take that same load and put it in one of the weathered gondolas and...voila!...you have a complete package.



Above: These before and after photos really show how weathering can eliminate that toy-like appearance and create a more prototypical look. In addition to the graffiti decals, Bob used acrylic paints, alcohol stains, and weathering powders to achieve the weathering effects. Note that the interiors of the gondolas are weathered as well as the exteriors, and that one of the gondolas has minor body damage, which Bob inflicted with a hobby knife.

CLINICIANS NEEDED

Just because we aren't meeting in person doesn't mean we don't need programs for our monthly virtual meetings. You can do a live show and tell, a power point presentation, or use some sort of other photo format. If you have attended one of our Zoom meetings, you can give a program. We will help you put it together if needed. Contact our Program Chairman Russ Weis at 502-245-7991 or email: rweis9818@gmail.com.

Turbos' South, Second section-Or working the Turbos during the early 90's.

By Paul Buhrke



This section has two actual happenings and one observation about the Turbos. Turbos were used all over the Empire District as it was called then. They would start out at Albany, run to New York City then back through Albany to either Niagara Falls, NY or Montreal. Being bidirectional they did not have to be turned just swap ends. Albany was the servicing point for

Left: Rohr Turboliner north of Cold Spring, New York in July 1985. Photo by Tom Nelligan from Railpictures.net.

the Turbos so they were cycled back for rest and rehabilitation. After “turning” at the shop, interior cleaning and minor repairs, they were released for another circle tour when needed. A note here: all the Turbos had a Turbo-Tech

assigned for the trip. They would do running repairs and mechanical work to keep them running on the road.

One of the assignments I had went to Montreal. We would pick up the train at Albany then run the D&H to Montreal, PQ, spend the night and return to Albany the next day. We were sailing north and approaching Plattsburg, NY. The rear Turbo had been acting up a bit as they were rather cantankerous at times. The Tech said he would look at it when we stopped at Plattsburg as he wanted to check the undercarriage. Well when we stopped at the Station the rear power unit died and would not restart. After an extended period of time the Tech uttered his pronouncement, “Broke”. The decision was made to cut the rear unit off and then continue to Montreal. The train was backed into the yard and the process of cutting off the rear Turbo was begun. There were numerous hoses and cables running between the units. All of them were either screw types or air types ensuring enough time was killed to the tune of about an hour. So away we went to Montreal, much slower; a power car and three coaches.

The second happening was on the way to Schenectady. We left Penn Station on the Rhinecliff Rocket. It was named as such as the train ran express from New York City to Rhinecliff, Hudson Albany and then Schenectady. We had left Albany and were cruising around 110 approaching Carmen when it seemed the bottom dropped out of the Turbo. Gravel was being flung all over outside and hitting the sides of the Turbo, the lights went out and the train went into emergency. Well the rear power car was separated from the rest of the train, but we were all on the rails and no one was hurt. It turned out that some delinquents had placed a 55-gallon oil drum, empty, on the tracks. It didn't matter, at 110 it was enough to cause damage. The passengers were taxied to Schenectady station; we coupled the train back up and went back to Albany. The connections of course looked like spaghetti strands hanging between the cars.

This last paragraph deals with the Turbo that self-immolated in Penn Station. I was not there when it decided to ignite, I just saw the remains. As they burned jet fuel, they were rather prone to fires if they were not watched and repaired. Albany did a fine job in the respect keeping them running, as I said they were cantankerous things. Apparently, it broke a line somewhere in the engine room and since the turbine was hot, the fuel or oil was ignited. There was a fire suppression system on board but as the Turbos were lying over in Penn Station, just the Tech was with it. Remember these had a power unit on each end separated by three cars. Nothing much could be done if the fire was unnoticed. The Turbo had melted itself down past the frame. I say past the frame as it melted the supports and the car was dragging its middle on the rails. It looked like a “U” with middle gone with just the ends there.

Paul Buhrke is a retired Amtrak Conductor and a friend of Division 8 Member Steve Lasher.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Joe Fields AP Chairman

Hello everyone. On July 14th Bob Dawson and I met with Fred Soward and judged his Model Railroad Engineer-Civil. I'm happy to say that Fred passed, and his paperwork has been sent to Frank Koch for final approval.

By the time you read this all of the merit awards certificates I have been holding have been presented. Joe Martin received a certificate for Model Railroad Author, and I received certificates for Master Builder Motive Power and Model Railroad Engineer-Civil. In addition, the Master Model Railroader certificates for Chris Broughton, and Bob Kuchler have been presented. These were handed out on July 19th in the parking lot of the 600 building. Congratulations to all who received awards.

As for myself, I'm working on my last category my own MMR certificate, Master Builder-Scenery. I have been building several buildings that are part of the scenery requirements. That's about it for now, as always if you need something judged or have question call me or email me. Happy modeling.

MEDIA COMMITTEE-KEEP CONNECTED

Ron Ellison Media Committee Chairman

These are the ways for Division 8 members to stay in touch and together:

- Groups.io
- Join us on Zoom for a virtual meeting - General Meeting and Monthly Gathering
- Division 8 Facebook
- Division 8 Webpage

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 here you can look at any time. Of course *The ePie Card* is always accessible on the webpage here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/piecard.html>.

We are usually online 30 minutes before the start of any Zoom meeting, so if you are unsure of your connection, join early.

SILVER SPIKE 2020

Silver Spike Committee

You may have noticed that the days are getting just a little shorter. Even though it's in the 80's and 90's, soon the leaves will be falling, and it will be time to think about the holidays - and the 2020 Silver Spike Award.

The Silver Spike Committee has put a plan together to make nominations for the award and then vote. And for the 1st time, nominations and voting will be done online.

You will soon be receiving an email that nominations will be open on Monday August 10, 2020 for the 2020 Silver Spike Award. The nominating period will close 2 weeks later on Sunday August 23, 2020. The email will include nominating instructions and qualifications.

If qualified nominees are found, the election will take place in ElectionBuddy from Monday September 14, 2020 to Sunday September 27, 2020.

Special arrangements will be made for a few members who are not online to include them in the process.

Be thinking about who has given exemplary service to Division 8 and should be nominated for the 2020 Silver Spike Award. A list of recipients who have previously received the award is here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/silver-spike.html>.



TRACKSIDE WITH BILL LYNCH

Norfolk Southern 4001 is in the lead through Oakland City, IN. Bill caught this "Sonicbonnet" this past May. 4001 was originally built as NS 8879, a Standard Cab Dash9, in the mid-1990's. In 2015 GE rebuilt this locomotive with a new wide cab and converted it to AC traction.

OFFICERS

Superintendent:	Fred Soward	502-499-0770
Asst. Supt:	Eric Waggoner	502-244-6628
Clerk:	Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Treasurer:	Mike Berry	502-245-1337

TRUSTEES

Tom Guenther	502-363-3113
Russ Weis	502-245-7991
Ron Ellison	502-807-7683

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Achievement Program	Joe Fields	502-396-3503
Contests	Barry Christensen	270-272-6069
Librarian	Mike Berry	502-245-1337
Membership	Stan White	502-558-2466
Member Welfare	Rick Wehr	502-500-6398
Media	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
Meetings & Program	Russ Weis	502-245-7991
Pie Card	Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Train Show and Sale	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
Webmaster	Tom Guenther	502-363-3113

MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS

President:	Bob Weinheimer	304-343-1428
Vice-president:	Dave Neff	440-269-1229
Secretary:	Jerry Doyle	304-638-2826
Treasurer:	Bob McKay	814-591-5415

To contact a Division Officer, Trustee, or Committee Director by email use:
 Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com/Division8.MCR.NMRA/>

THE PIE CARD

Division Eight, MCR, NMRA
 Box 99041
 Louisville, KY 40269-0041
 502-653-5371

Editor: Bob Dawson
 Asst. Editor: Rick Tipton
 Publisher EPieCard-Ron Ellison

The Pie Card is published twelve times a year by Division 8 of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid Central Region.

Please address all correspondence to Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Dr., Louisville, KY 40214 or email: dawsobl@aol.com.

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.

The Company Store is ALWAYS open for business

24/7/365. Shop anytime here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/store.html> .

We take credit cards for your secure purchase. We still take cash or checks but a credit card is the preferred tender. You can email your order to Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com . We will email you back an itemized invoice from the Square Virtual Terminal and then pay online with your credit card.

If you weren't able to get by our Celebration Station on July 19th, we can ship your sanitizer. Each member is entitled to 1 FREE bottle. Additional bottles are 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10 - the best value.

Because we won't be meeting face to face through at least the end of this year, pickup of Company Store merchandise is no longer possible. We will ship your order via USPS and invoice you for postage at the least expensive rate along with your order.

OR - we're planning another Pickup Event at the 600 Building mid to late September. Be thinking about winter coming on and possibly a fleece or long sleeve denim shirt. Maybe tell your significant other it might be time to place that holiday order and avoid the freight charge not to mention the Holiday rush. But get your order in right away. The clock waits for no one.

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".

