

The Pie Card

Volume 54, July 2020, Number 7



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

How are y'all doing? Keeping busy and safe, I hope. Some days, with all the calls and virtual meetings, I feel like I'm back at work, but remotely from home.

The May 2020 Mid Central Region Board of Directors meeting was mostly, as you'd expect, discussion about how everyone is managing themselves and their Divisions during the COVID-19 crisis. There were a couple other topics that I believe you should know about.

There were two proposed MCR Regulation changes about elections. First, to allow Divisions to hold elections by acclamation when there is only one candidate for each open position at the close of nominations. Second, to allow for non-paper ballots, specifically electronic ballots. Bottom line - If there is more than one person nominated for an available elected position, we must conduct a vote by ballot, but we can do that electronically.

The cost of a paper ballot sent through the postal service is around \$100.00 (postage, printing, and envelopes) plus the time for printing, stuffing envelopes, and counting ballots. Using an electronic voting solution will cost \$19 for up to 350 voters and the vote is counted electronically. If it is an election by acclamation (only one person per open position), the cost is zero and there is zero ballot counting. Both proposals were submitted to the Region by Division 8 and passed without issue. Ron Ellison is chairing a committee, assisted by Bob Dawson & Russ Weis, to revise the Division 8 By Laws to reflect these and any other needed changes.

There was further discussion about Scouting and "persons at risk" involvement. Bottom line - it is prohibited by the NMRA. We can provide financial and other tangible support if requested such as providing freight car kits to a Scouting organization, but there can be no publicity about it. Individual members of the NMRA can be involved in Scouting activities or with other groups in support of "persons at risk," however, they do so on their own and without any connection to the NMRA. If you have questions about this, please contact me directly.

The group talked at length about keeping members engaged. Some Divisions were not doing anything. Some Divisions are producing an extra, second edition, of their monthly newsletters and some had just started virtual meetings. A week after the MCR Board meeting, MCR Superintendents and others met virtually to discuss how all MCR Divisions can work toward getting their members engaged while keeping safe. Every MCR Division should be there by the time y'all read this column.

Be sure to holler if you have questions, concerns, suggestions about how we can keep everyone engaged until (and after) we meet face-to-face again.

JUNE MEETING REPORT

Bob Dawson Division Clerk

The June meeting of Division 8 MCR NMRA was held on Saturday June 20, 2020. Due to restrictions imposed by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic social distancing requirements, the Division meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom video conferencing platform. Attendance was 26.

Joe Fields, Achievement Program (AP) Chairman, said Mark Norman and Ed Brennan had met with him (in the parking lot) at Scale Reproductions to judge his models he needed to complete the motive power category. Joe told members to contact him if they had models to be judged for the AP program and he would make arrangements to have it done.

Barry Christensen announced the results of the 2019-2020 Charlie Keeling Model Contest. See page 2 of this issue. Barry with Ron Ellison reported that beginning with the August meeting, the model contest will be conducted virtually until we can return to meeting face-to-face. Procedures for the virtual contest can be found on Page 7. *The meeting report is continued on page 2.*

TIME TABLE

Jul 11, Sat 2 to 3:30 PM, Zoom Gathering

July 25, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom,
(this is a new item on the Time Table)

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

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

Sep 19-20, Louisville Train Days

CANCELLED (see page 7)

Oct 15, Thur, 7 PM Div 8 Mtg On Zoom

Nov 7, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. On Zoom

Nov 14, Sat 10 AM to 3 PM, 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*

July	Virtual Test Contest (Cabooses)
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

The 2019-2020 Charlie Keeling Model Contest year encompassed only six contests at monthly Division Eight meetings before the meetings went virtual in the wake of the pandemic. The winners of this year's contest were announced at the June 20th virtual Division Eight meeting. Congratulations to Rick Geerts who came in third, winning a \$50.00 Scale Reproductions Hobby Shop gift card; Bill Lynch who came in second, winning a \$75.00 gift card; and Joe Fields who came in first, winning a \$100.00 gift card. Prizes will most likely be presented at our next face-to-face Division Eight gathering.

The final end-of-year contest standings are as follows: Joe Fields at first with 17 points; Bill Lynch for second with 13; Rick Geerts is third with 12 (reflecting the correction of a one point calculation error); Steve Lasher with 8; Kevin Jones with 6; Bob Johnson with 5; Chris Broughton with 4; Daryl Arend, Bob Frankrone, and Chris Hatter with 3; Edward Brennan, John Stoltz, and Russ Weis with 2; and Rob Johnson, Bob Kuchler, Mark Norman, Ron Stigler, and Stan White with 1.

Be sure to follow late-breaking developments about the new virtual Charlie Keeling Model Contest, with a test-run planned in July and the official introduction in August, as we begin the 2020-2021 Charlie Keeling Model Contest year. (See page 7 for virtual contest details)

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.

MEETING REPORT (continued from page 1)

Fred reported that Russ Weis has recruited Gerry Albers as the presenter for the July meeting, and Ed Swain for August. Both July 25th and August 15th meetings will be virtual.

After a short break following the business portion of the meeting, Program Chairman Russ Weis introduced Bruce McKeown who presented "One Can Still Make Models for Model Railroads Part 2". Bruce, a Santa Fe modeler, showed how he kitbashed, and pretty much scratchbuilt models to match specific Santa Fe prototypes.

**JULY MEETING INFORMATION**

The July meeting is Saturday July 25, 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. Gerry Albers, Division 7 will present the program, "Things I Wished I'd Known About DCC".

JULY ZOOM GATHERING

This month's Zoom Gathering will be Saturday July 11, 2020, 2:00 PM. The presenters will be:

- Mark Norman - SD70 Rebuild Project
- Kevin Jones - On30 Scratchbuilt Caboose
- Rick Geerts - Recent Open Load Builds

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 July 11th!

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.

DIVISION 8 MEMBER JOE VETTER PASSED AWAY

Thurman J. "Joe" Vetter, 78, passed away Thursday, June 11, 2020 with his family by his side. Joe was one of the founders of The Louisville Live Steamers Club and a longtime member of Division 8. He is survived by three daughters, a sister and brother and four grandchildren. Our condolences to his family.

MEMBER WELFARE*Rick Wehr Chairman*

John Helton was in hospital for several days. He had surgery for an old injury. A \$50 donation was made to Crusade for Children in Memory of Joe Vetter, and a sympathy card was sent to his family.

MEMBERSHIP*Eric Waggoner Acting Chairman*

As of June 1st, the most recent data from the NMRA, Division 8 has 131 active members. This includes 2 new members, Gerald Suell and Paul Taylor. Welcome Gerald and Paul!

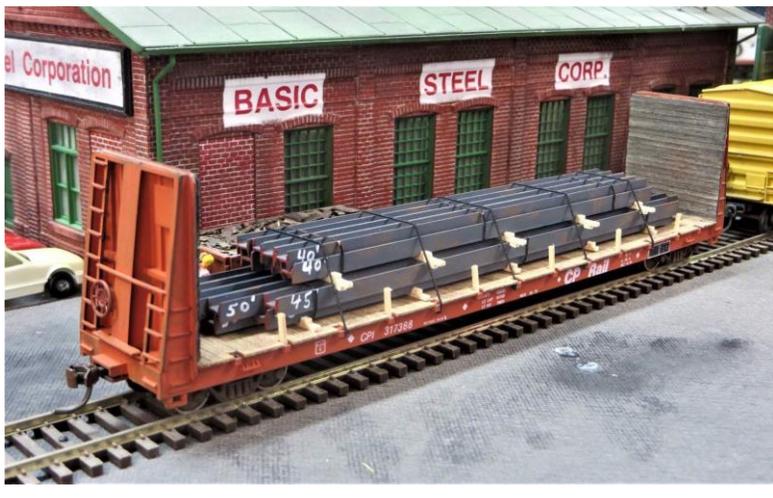
Also, for the past several months I have been acting as the interim membership chairman and I am now happy to announce that Stan White will be taking over as our new membership chairman. Welcome Stan to his new position.

SHOW AND TELL

In lieu of having a June Contest, there was a “show and tell” slide show on open loads which had been the June model contest subject. Shown were model photos by Rick Geerts, Craig Hatter, Bob Frankrone, Bill Lynch, and Steve Lasher. Bob Frankrone and Bill Lynch were available to comment on their models.

Left: Rick Geerts

Below: Steve Lasher



Above: Craig Hatter

Left: Bob Frankrone

Below: Bill Lynch

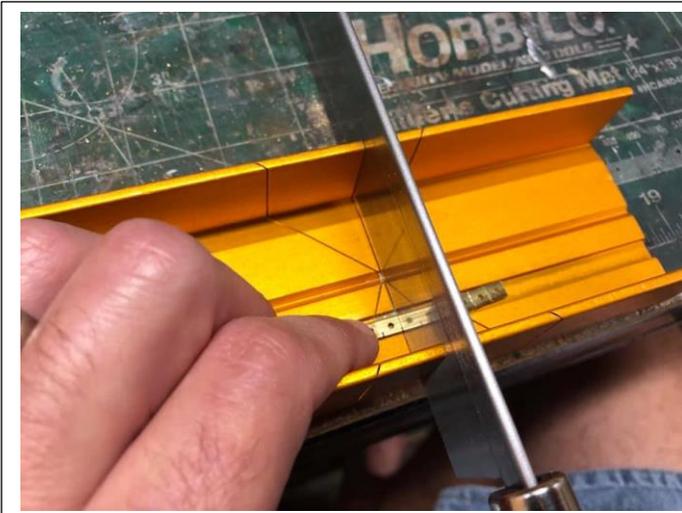


N-SCALE COUPLER BOX PROJECT

Chris Broughton needed coupler boxes for his N-Scale R. J. Corman Sand Train Project. His need to make his own coupler boxes stemmed from the fact that all commercial options (various flavors of Micro-Trains couplers, Accumates, etc.) were too "thick" and rubbed the outboard axle on the trucks. The rectangular brass tube was thinner overall, but still allowed room for a "whisker" style coupler like an Accumate or McHenry (what he ended up using finally) to fit and operate using the mounting screw as the post, and still provide ample clearance between the axle and box.

Chris wrote that "It wasn't as much of a pain as he anticipated - having the right tools helped immensely." So, in the end, he finally has a custom-painted 12-car RJ Corman "Sand Train." Corman's Sand Train runs behind Chris's house on its runs between Nugent Sand on the Ohio River, and destinations in Frankfort and Lexington.

Photos and article by Chris Broughton MMR



Above: Chris's completed sand train.



Left:
Charlie Fackler scratch built this HO Jim Beam Rack/Rickhouse. Charlie built the model using photos and measurements that he took of the prototype building.
Photo by Charlie Fackler

A rackhouse/rickhouse is a warehouse used for storing barrels of aging whiskey. Barrels are stored on ricks, stacked several high. The materials that the building is constructed from, as well as the location of the barrel in the building, can affect the maturation process.
From whiskeyadvocate.com website.
--whiskeyadvocate.com

Right:

The sawmill at Three Point on Tom Guentner's L&N Railroad has been upgraded with a new shed.

Photo by Tom Guentner



Left:

A night scene on John Bowling's HO Scale Layout in Danville, KY

John hosted a visit by Division 8 in Fall 2019.

Photo by Bob Dawson

TURBOS' SOUTH

Or working the Turbos during the early 90's

By Paul Buhrke



I had moved to Albany, NY over the Christmas Holidays between 1990 and 1991. I had gone over to AMTRAK in 1989 when they assimilated the Train and Engine crews. I had originally hired out on Seaboard Coast Line in Rocky mount, NC in 1980.

I had qualified as Conductor from Albany to New York City first as that is where the most trains are run and hence the manpower requirements are greatest. So I am called for an early afternoon train to New York. I signed up at the Crew base and found out my train was a set of Turbos. It was time to go see the Trainmaster and get a quick tour before I go off into the Sunset, per se.

Left: AMTRAK RTG Turbo, Chicago, IL September, 1979. Photo by Chuck Zeiler from Railpictures.net.

Albany had two separate types of Turbos. I won't get into too much discussion of them but the first type was the RTG or RAME a' TURBINE a' GAZ. These were built with buffers and turnbuckles to connect the units and slide out steps for boarding. The second type was the RTL or ROHR TURBO LINER. These were built with normal Janney couplers and traps for boarding.

The set I was going to work was a RTG set as the Trainmaster placed a coach key inside a slot on the car side and turned it. The entire door popped out and slid sideways to open and we climbed inside. Dropping the trap he showed me the key slot on the door frame. This controlled the door operation on either the individual door or train. Turn the key one way the door opens. Turn the key the other way, and all the doors open.

Important note here for reference, keep the traps closed unless you are going to use the steps. This is because the RTG was set up with receding steps. Open the door with the trap up and out the steps run. Close the doors and the steps recede first then the door closes. One did not want to have the steps come out in third rail territory. The RTLs' were set up a bit differently door wise. These had regular swinging doors that opened in and regular traps but needed step boxes for the last step inside or out. The important item here on both sets is keep the traps closed. Working high platforms, more than one person ended down in the well when the trap was left up.

Right: RTL or ROHR TURBO LINER. Photo by Mike Danneman from rapidotrains.com



The layouts were similar inside; five car sets with a Café in the center and coach seats in the other cars. The end doors were sliding and tricky. Every so often you might have a confugilty with the end doors. Either it would not open until one really pounded on the button OR it would open then snap shut on you, especially if you were taking coffee to the head end. Pick your poison, not all the time but one needed to be wary.

The Head-end was sparse but at the time space age. The dashboard was curved and had a "works in a drawer" arrangement, typical of locomotives in 2020. The train sounded quite different as well. When revving up it was like a jet engine, slowly accelerating but then quickly getting up to speed as if the works caught up with the turbine. They also smelled of diesel fuel just like a jet engine. As there were two power cars on each set, the best ride was in the rear cab with the windows and doors open.

The inside seating was a bit cramped but still adequate for the short distances travelled. The overhead racks were rather narrow and not too much could be held. There were larger spaces for luggage at the ends of the cars though. If I remember, fold down trays were provided on the seat backs. From this Conductors perspective there was no difference between conventional equipment and the Turbos'.

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

JULY VIRTUAL CONTEST

As announced at the June General Meeting, we will begin running virtual modeling contests in July. The July Contest, **Cabooses**, will be a test contest so everyone can have a chance to learn the new contest format. The July Virtual Contest will not count for points as part of the Charlie Keeling Model Contest - *it is only a test*. The Contest year begins in August.

A reminder will be sent out but below are some of the Contest timeline dates for July:

- July 11th - Reminder that the last day to submit entries is 1 week away
- July 18th - Last day to submit entries
- July 22nd - Members will receive the contest entries
- July 23rd & 24th - Voting in Groups.io, email to Division 8 or phone, text, SMS
- July 25th - 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 July 11th. 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. The Contest timeline dates will be published each month in The Pie Card.

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 anytime. Of course *The ePie Card* is always accessible on the webpage here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/piecard.html>.

In April we rolled out **Groups.io** freemium service to Division 8 members.

As a reminder, the primary intent of the group is to inform members of Division 8 about NMRA, MCR, and Division 8 activities and functions. Other appropriate topics include prototype and model railroading activities of general interest to the group.

We think Groups.io is a valuable tool to share information delivered to you as you like it. And we hope to use Groups.io to save general meeting time for announcements and information for the good of the hobby. Who doesn't want a shorter general meeting?

If you'd like to join Groups.io, send an email to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and we will send you an invitation with a link to join. Division 8 Groups.io is not a public group and you won't find it by doing a search.

LOUISVILLE TRAIN DAYS 2020 IS CANCELLED

By Bob Dawson Chairman

The Division 8 Board of Directors voted at its June meeting to cancel the Louisville Train Days 2020 Model Trains Exhibition scheduled for September 19-20. This event was seen as an opportunity to celebrate and share our hobby with the public. It was felt that with restrictions and health concerns imposed by the COVID-19 virus, we would not be able to have a quality show that would adequately do this.

Thanks to all of the layouts and clubs that volunteered to set up at this year's show. We are planning to reschedule this event for 2021 and hope to see you there. You will be sent an invitation when the 2021 dates are finalized. If you have any questions, you can email me at dawsonrober1@bellsouth.net, or call me at 502-609-1052.

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Treasurer:	Mike Berry	502-245-1337

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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

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