

The Pie Card

Volume 54, May, 2020, Number 5



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

Cancellations and rescheduling and virtual meetings. Welcome to the COVID-19 timeline.

As a group, model railroaders tend to be pretty resilient and fairly tenacious about life in general. We'll adapt as needed, we'll survive as best we can, and we'll see it through to the other side of this crisis we're in right now.

Everyone I've talked to since mid-March has had at least some struggles finding supplies during this event. I think Model Railroaders might've been more prepared than most groups. We were already adjusted to being alone working on our layouts for extended periods. But think about all the essential items most of us already had on-hand:

- Isopropyl alcohol? Check! Used to make wet water for laying down ballast.
- Latex/Disposable gloves? Check! Painting and scenery making hand-savers.
- Face Mask? Check! Especially if you use an air brush.
- Paper Towels by the case? Check! Essential for clean-ups and for dipping plaster to make scenery.

We cancelled the March meeting and the Spring Train Show & Sale, then we cancelled the April and May meetings, all out of an abundance of caution for our members. Both this year's MCR and NMRA conventions have been cancelled. The summer picnic is in jeopardy because of the host organization. Stay tuned for more information.

Our April business meeting and Bob Dawson's presentation were virtual using the Zoom platform with 32 people attending. We will continue to hold fully virtual meetings until we can once again meet in person. We will offer a virtual option for all meetings after we're allowed to meet in person. So, if you're feeling a little under the weather or if you're traveling, you'll still be able to join us for the monthly meeting even after we begin to meet face-to-face again. You will, of course, have to provide your own snacks and drinks.

Are you tuned into what's happening with Division 8 and with your fellow Division 8 members? There are several ways to do that and to keep yourself connected – The Division 8 website is updated as needed and the Division 8 Facebook page is frequently updated with new information and announcements. The Division 8 Groups.io email group is updated even more frequently and allows anyone who is a member of the group to ask questions, answer questions, and to hold a conversation with other members. You can receive the updates as individual emails, as a digest with several messages, as a daily summary, or as special notices which means you'll only receive messages from the moderators – your choice. If you're concerned about sharing your everyday email address, create a gmail or yahoo email account specifically for this purpose. It's a great way to keep in touch with your fellow Division 8 model railroaders and to keep from feeling entirely isolated right now as you interact with people beyond the house. Best of all – no face masks, gloves, or sanitizer required!

APRIL MEETING REPORT

Bob Dawson Division Clerk

For the first time in its history, the Division met on line using Zoom video conferencing platform. Attendance was 32, on par with our face to face meetings. Also in attendance was Bob Weinheimer MMR, President of Mid Central Region. Bob gave us an update on
Continued on page 2, see APRIL

TIME TABLE

May 16, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom
May 28-31 MCR Convention, Pittsburgh, PA CANCELLED
Jun 20, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. 600 Room.
Jul 12-18 NMRA Convention, St. Louis, MO CANCELLED
July 25, Sat Noon, Div 8 Picnic, CANCELLED, Reschedule TBA
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, Div 8 Mtg., 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*

May	Cabooses*
June	Open Loads
July	NO CONTEST
August	MOW Equipment and Highway Vehicles
September	Photos-Models Photos-Prototype
October	Steam Locomotives
November	Displays/Dioramas
December	NO CONTEST
January	Freight Cars
February	Non Steam Motive Power
March	Structures
April	Passenger Cars

*Due to being unable to meet in person, the contests in March, April, and May are cancelled. There will be no catch-up. The contest will be resumed with entry of the month when we can begin meeting in person again. If we can't meet before the end of the contest year, current standings will be used to determine the overall contest winner.

Current Contest Standings (as of February): Joe Fields is in first place with 17 points; Rick Geerts and Bill Lynch are tied for second with 13; Steve Lasher is third with 8; next is Kevin Jones with 6; Bob Johnson with 5; Chris Broughton with 4; Daryl Arend, Bob Frankrone and Craig 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.

The May contest category is cabooses. In lieu of a contest we will have a "show and tell" by photos. Submit your photos to Fred Soward.

Model Contest Survey

The results of the Model Contest Survey were announced by Bob Frankrone at the April "virtual" meeting. The main take-a-way was that members wanted the contest kept pretty much as it is. Bob said he and Contest Chairman Barry Christensen made some minor tweaks to the contest:

- Diesel category changed to Non-Steam Motive Power
- MOW category is changed to MOW and Highway Vehicles
- Continue to allow non-voting entries if space permits
- Contest entries must be owned by entrant
- Continue to allow voting before the meeting and during the break
- Split the Photo category into "Model Photos" and "Prototype Photos"

Full rules are posted on the Division 8 website

**MAY MEETING INFORMATION**

The May meeting is Saturday May 16, 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.

CONVENTIONS CANCELLED

The Steel City Express 2020 MCR Convention scheduled for 28-31 May in Pittsburgh, PA has been cancelled. The Gateway 2020 NMRA Convention and the National Train Show scheduled for July in St. Louis have been cancelled also.

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. Send Russ an email.

APRIL MEETING REPORT *(continued from page 1)*

NMRA's new youth policies due to liability issues. NMRA will no longer participate in the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program, although individual members may, acting on their own. Minors attending NMRA meetings or functions including 100% NMRA clubs must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will remain with them while there. A guardian must produce a notarized authorization letter from a parent. Bob congratulated Chris Broughton and Bob Kuchler on achieving Master Model Railroader. See left for Contest information.

Fred Soward reported that the picnic venue is no longer available. The Board of Directors is soliciting ideas for an alternate venue.

Fred emphasized the importance of staying connected through: Division 8 Group.io, Division 8 Facebook Page, and the Division 8 Website. The Division has purchased a Zoom License, and the May meeting will be via Zoom.

The minutes for the April meeting are posted on the Division 8 Web Site. Go to members pages.

What are YOU working on during this worldwide event?



FROM JOE FIELDS, AP CHAIRMAN

Left:

This is my third locomotive model that I built for the Master Builder--Motive Power certificate in the Achievement Program. Called a doodlebug, it's modeled after a Pennsylvania-style doodlebug. After this is Judged, I will have completed the requirements for this category. This will give me six certificates out of the seven required for Master Model Railroader. I'm getting ready to work on certificate number seven, which will be scenery.

Photo by Joe Fields



Above: John Czerwinski sent these photos and update on his N-Scale Trolley Layout.

Y'all might remember back when Div 8 had its layout tour that I was in an early state of building an N-scale trolley layout. It is a modified version of the Park Avenue Lines from the Traction Guidebook. As the Traction Guidebook HO version is 5' x 9' it took a bit of selective compression to get that layout's concept into 2' (and a bit) x 4' (and a bit). The buildings are a combination of train show buys, eBay buys and built by John. The overhead is not in place yet. The viewer side of the car barn needs some work. The backdrop across from the park is planned to have two apartment towers which will be known as Park View 1 and 2. I haven't placed any vehicles or trees yet. In fact there is a lot of detailing to be done.



FROM RUSS WEIS

Left: How I spent some of the first month of the COVID-19 pandemic. I started on this utility poles project - I MAY get these all done before I die!!! Yikes - so much work for such little detail!!

Continued on page 4

See **WHAT**

UP DATE FROM THE DIVISION 8 MEDIA COMMITTEE

We rolled out Groups.io freemium service to Division 8 members in early April. We had a nice response with 58 members signing up as of this date.

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. Especially as they relate to areas near Division 8. The group is moderated by the Media Committee.

We have also added a **Flea Market Friday on the first Friday of each month** to [Groups.io](https://groups.io). A chance for members to list railroad items for sale to the group. Any questions and selling transactions are taken care of outside of the group. It will run from 00:00 that Friday morning until 11:59 PM that night.

There are some additional features like a calendar of railroad events, files section, photos, and a directory of members of the group. Some of the content is also posted on the Division 8 Facebook page and later in *The Pie Card*. But Groups.io is the first stop.

We think Groups.io 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*. It is not a public group and you won't be able to find it on Groups.io. If you'd like to join the group, send an email to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and we will send you an invitation with a link to join.

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Left:
From Stan White,

Thank goodness for our hobby during a time like this! I've been able to get some things done that I've been putting off. I finally finished the backdrop, painting a few unfinished feet, and completed a couple of Downtown Deco hydrocal kits.

Left:
Tom Guenther has been working on many projects. One of these is his HO model of L&N's Baxter Tower. Tom said the hardest part was building the stairs.



Still a work in progress, he is working on finishing the roof. The prototype still stands today beside the CSX tracks at the junction of the Poor Fork and Clover Park branches in Harlan County. It's not known if the tower performs any useful purpose today, so its days may be numbered.

See page 5 for another modeling project Tom's been working on.

HOW I SPENT THE FIRST MONTH OF THE COVID-19 WORLD WIDE PANDEMIC

By Tom Guenther, Photos by Tom Guenther

Back in February during an OP session with some fellow model railroaders an idea hit me that there was one way I could expand my layout. As some of you know the basement is well taken up by the layout now.



There is a space over the utility sink that could be used for a small industry area off the main line between Corbin Yard and Appalachia. The next day I went out to the garage and found a few pieces of plywood and 1x3s that would work as a base to cover part of the area. I laid some turnouts and track to see what could be done in the area. When happy with the plan I laid the track and spray painted the track a dark brown. Then I cleared the wall of old phone Junction terminals and painted the wall a light blue.

Next, I needed a way to cover the hole through the wall where the main line went into Corbin Yard. A mountain/hill with a tunnel would do the trick. So, I gathered some foam scraps from my stand-by supply and started to place these along the wall where the hole was. I covered the track with tape to protect it.

I then covered these foam pieces with old cast cloth that I had from a few years ago, to form the scenery shape. It was used to make man-made rock cuts, a tunnel entrance, and the mountain against the wall.

Now came the messy part. I covered everything with plaster cloth with Sculptamold, carved in the rock formations, and inserted some plaster rocks that were also left from years ago.

Once that dried good, I started the coloring of the scenery base. I used Apple Barrel brand paint I bought at Walmart. I used many different colors to achieve the color and effect I wanted. Then I applied some grass on some of the area, and placed bushes and trees.

With the hard work completed, I applied ballast on the track and added some backdrop buildings. I built a siding dock and with pieces in my scrap/junk box a small oil company structure.

All in all, the only expense I had was a new air brush, that I always wanted.



Left:

The completed expansion, now christened Rose Hill, VA.



Right:

It didn't take long for business to start booming.



TAKING CHARGE

By Steve Lasher



A short time ago while Russ Weis, Stan White and I were getting ready for one of his Tuesday night operating sessions. Russ was lamenting sound equipped locomotives. His gripe was that in the past other visiting modelers commented on locomotives without sound and, after spending considerable money to acquire a sound capable fleet of locomotives, engineers still wouldn't blow the horn/whistle or ring the engine bell appropriately for the one (and only) grade crossing on his layout.

Left: Steve at the controls of a locomotive simulator at the Paducah Railroad Museum in Paducah, KY. Steve worked as a locomotive engineer for several railroads, the last being Southern Pacific/St. Louis Southwestern.

Photo by Russ Weis.

The Prototype

No aircraft pilot, fixed wing or rotary, would consider taking off without doing a walk around inspection of his aircraft. Likewise, no CDL licensed trucker would leave without taking a look at his rig. Well, guess what, you're not supposed to move a locomotive without a pre-tour-of-duty inspection. OK, you say, what exactly are you supposed to check? Roughly, the procedure for a 26L equipped GP9, standing and idling, would be:

With the hand brake set (so it doesn't roll away), place the automatic brake (the big one on top that controls both the train brakes and engine brake) in release position and the independent (the one that controls the engine brakes only) brake handle in release position also and make sure the brakes release (watch the gauge hand). Then apply the automatic by making a reduction and watching the engine brake cylinder gauge go up. Then, place it all the way to right in "emergency" and make sure the engine brakes go to full application. "Bail off" the independent brakes by depressing the independent handle to make sure the brakes release by bailing off, then move the big handle back to release and ensure that the brakes release. Then move the independent handle to full application and see that the gauge confirms that the brakes set. Leave the independent handle in the fully applied position.

Before leaving the cab, turn on both headlights, turn on the sanders and move the reverser handle to forward and reverse, blow a toot on the horn and turn on the bell to make sure they work. The "engine run" and "control" switches should be "on" and the "generator field" switch should be "off".

Go out the back door of the cab to the door (about two thirds of the way back) that allows you to check the governor oil (between the sight glass marks) and the engine cooling water (at least 1/3rd of a glass – it will go down when the engine is worked hard). Go around to the opposite side of the engine and check the crankcase oil level (between the marks on the dipstick).

Now, on the ground check the air hoses and make sure they're fit for service. Look for sand around the front and rear wheels from when you turned them on to make sure they work. Check that the headlights are on; Check the piston travel on the brake cylinders (it shouldn't be greater than 6 inches – about the length of a dollar bill). Now, release the hand brake and you're ready to sit down in the seat, turn the bell on and, after a few appropriate toots on the horn, and then move out.

The Model

As the engineer on a model locomotive you're a lucky guy. Almost none of the above needs to be or can be done on an HO scale locomotive. But, you should check that the headlight comes on and the whistle and bell work. Fortunately, manufacturers have pretty much

Right: HO Scale EMD GP9 Model

Standardized conventions that: a) "0" turns the headlight on and off; b) "1" turns on the bell; and, c) "2" or the horn button blows the horn/whistle. As a conscientious engineman you should make sure you know how to operate these before you begin your tour-of duty. Hi-oh-silver – away!!



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LAYOUT-IN-A-FOOTBALL-DISPLAY CASE

Continued from the April Pie Card.

Left:

Chris Broughton, MMR, continues with his HO_n30 “layout-in-a-football-display-case” micro layout. Two of the turnout throws have been cleverly disguised as steel barrels and the other as a large tree trunk. Since the theme of the layout is a quarry railroad, Chris made the “stone” blocks from Styrofoam pieces painted with light gray craft paint.

Right: The first piece of rolling stock as arrived on the Marble Mountain Quarry Railroad. This 12’ box car started out as a 20’ Funaro & Camerlengo HO_n30 box car kit. Chris cut it down in length to fit the 4” turntable when shared with a locomotive.



Left: Two completed HO_n30 12’ flat cars made from castings. These were cast in the mold Chris made from his scratch-built version of this car. The castings are a mixture of resin and tungsten powder to add weight. The completed car weighs just shy of a 1/2oz.

Photos by Chris Broughton

TRACKSIDE WITH BOB FRANKRONE

GCT 001/MNCW 001 was built for Grand Central Terminal service in 1914. It was built to work in the constricted areas on the tracks leading to Grand Central Terminal in New York City. The crane was electric powered off third rail with battery backup.

The crane was donated to the Danbury (Conn.) Railway Museum where Bob made this photo.



Division 8, MCR, NMRA

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THE PIE CARD

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The Company Store is ALWAYS 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 from the Square Virtual Terminal and you can then call us and we will process your credit card payment over the phone. Square will email 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 get your stuff in 1 of 3 ways. Pick up at the next meeting. We can arrange a pickup. Or we can ship them to you via USPS - You pay the postage.

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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".

