

The Pie Card

Volume 54, November, 2020, Number 11

Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Two years ago in this column, I talked about my four primary model railroading projects for winter 2018-2019:

1. Create the track plan for Phase One of the layout; 2. Begin benchwork for Phase One of the layout; 3. Build a stack of Fast Tracks turnouts; 4. Create & present the

clinics that would allow me to finish the requirements to earn the Author AP award. All were completed, although the benchwork took longer to start than I'd've liked.

As with winter 2018-2019, there are many things I want to complete this winter. Here are my four primary model railroading projects.

Project One. Finish painting rail on the Phase One portion of the layout.

Project Two. Install switch machines (electrical and manual) on the Phase One portion of the layout. If I have all the rail painted and all the switch machines in place by December 31, Barbara can start scenery in there after she retires on. . . December 31.

Project Three. Lay track in the Phase Two area of the layout, otherwise known as intermediate/temporary staging. The benchwork is complete (thanks Ron Ellison & Russ Weis). The Homabed is laid down (thanks Bob Dawson & Tom Guenther). Laying the track has been delayed for several months because of yard & house projects. I can probably knock it out in about a week if I can work on it without interruptions.

Project Four. Complete the requirements for one of the Achievement Program categories under the "Railroad Setting" area. I have a couple buildings I completed in the 1970's & 1980's, so I have at least a little bit of a start on the structures certificate.

Why do I make this list of projects? Because it helps me maintain focus. If I have a project, I have a plan. If I have a plan, I have a deadline. And with that, I have a goal to complete by a specific date. If I just say, "someday," that day will likely never arrive because I'll continue to find other things to do like research for the railroad (aka read books and surf the web). But, no matter what projects I have lined up, I still expect to spend some time just watching the train go round-n-round the Christmas tree.

Be sure to use the Division 8 Groups.io email group to share your thoughts on what I've written. Don't forget to include the model railroad projects you have planned for this winter.

OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

Bob Dawson Division Clerk

The October meeting was held on Saturday, October 17, 2020 on Zoom. Attendance was 22 including visitors Phil Gliebe and Bruce McKeown.

The Charlie Keeling Model Contest report is on page 2 of this issue. See page 3 for more about the meeting with photos from the program and the Model Contest.

Mark Hedge proposed having a casual Zoom meeting in December since the Christmas Party was canceled and there is no regular meeting. Fred said we could do it if there is enough interest. Fred asked Mark to post his suggestion to Groups.io. for comments.

Contest Chairman Barry Christensen announced that there will be a "Just for Fun" special Holiday Model Contest in December. See details on page 2.

Ron Ellison asked for comments or questions regarding the proposed revisions to the Division 8 Bylaws. There were none. The revision to bylaws will be voted on at the November meeting.

The minutes for the October 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

Nov 14, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom.

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

~~**Dec 5**, Div 8 Christmas Party. CANCELLED~~

Dec 12, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom.

Dec 19, Div 8 Open Bull Session on Zoom.

Jan 9, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom

Jan 16, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. on Zoom

CHARLIE KEELING VIRTUAL MODEL CONTEST*Barry Christensen Contest Chairman*

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

The October Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest had four entries for the category of steam locomotives. What it lacked in numbers it more than made up for in craftsmanship. The voting results were extremely close, with the membership recognizing each entrant well for their efforts.

Steve Lasher came in first with his L&N M1 #1954 2-8-4. Russ Weis came in second with CNR #3554 2-8-2. There was a tie for third between Joe Fields with his brass "O" scale L & N M1 and Rick Geerts with his Union Pacific steam locomotive.

We now have a three-way tie for lead between Joe Fields, Bob Frankrone and Russ Weis with 8 points each. Craig Hatter and Kevin Jones are also tied with 7 points each. Rick Geerts has 5, Steve Lasher has 4, Ron Ellison has 3, and Eric Waggoner has 1.

The contest at the November 2020 virtual meeting will be for displays (no size limit) including dioramas. For information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html> . To enter the November Contest, email your display model photo along with the Contest Entry Form as a PDF file to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com . 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. 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 assist. We will send out a reminder but below are some of the Contest timeline dates for November:

- November 7th - First day to submit entries
- November 14th - Last day to submit entries
- November 18th - Members will receive the contest entries
- November 19th & 20th - Voting in Groups.io, email to Division 8 or phone, text, SMS
- November 21st - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

**NOVEMBER MEETING INFORMATION**

The November meeting is Saturday November 21, 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. Bruce McKeown

Bruce McKeown will present "Details of a Few More Model Car Projects & Loads for Open Top Freight Cars".

CONTEST (continued)

Although there will be no virtual general meeting in December and our holiday banquet has been cancelled, there will be a first-time Special Holiday Model Contest, just for fun! The contest theme will be "Favorite Holiday Engine, Railcar or Structure." No contest points will be awarded but a \$25 Scale Reproductions store gift card will be given to the modeler of the entry with the most votes (no second or third place). In the event of a tie, the contest chairperson will break the tie. Entry and voting will be run just like the regular monthly model contest. The results will be announced on December 19.

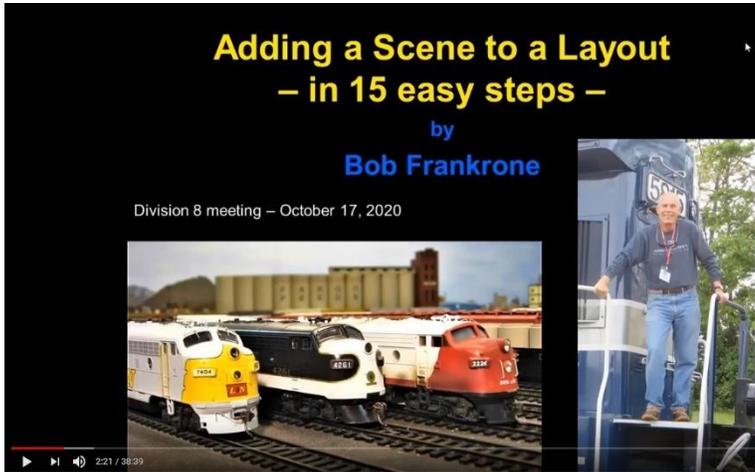
DIV 8 FALL 2021 TRAIN SHOW & SALE*Ron Ellison Train Show & Sale Chairman*

We are beginning the planning for our next Train Show & Sale 1 year from now on November 13, 2021. When we originally cancelled this month's show along with the Spring 2021 show back in July, we thought there would be no problem having the show a year from now. But as time goes on, even the November 2021 show is not set in stone. We'll have to see how things progress with the worldwide pandemic and the forthcoming vaccine before it can become a sure thing. But we will still move forward with event planning without making commitments we can't back out of and without spending any Division 8 funds. But put it on your calendar. The worst would be you have to cross it off later.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT*Stan White Membership Chairman*

Based on the latest report from the NMRA below are the current membership numbers as of September 30, 2020:

130 Active members
6 Renewals
1 Passed Due.



Left: October Clinic

Bob Frankrone presented "How to Add a Scene to a Layout in 15 Easy Steps."

Bob described how he added scenery and structures to a portion of his layout that had been bare plywood for years. And yes, for those who were counting, he did it in 15 steps.

Photo: *Screen Shot from Zoom meeting video.*

CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST



Left:

First Place, Steve Lasher's Westside Models brass HO L & N M1 #1954 2-8-4. It is custom painted and weathered. Many detailed parts were parts added or corrected. A Soundtraxx decoder was added.

Below:

Second Place, Russ Weis's HO Van Hobbies brass CNR #3554 2-8-2.



Joe Fields and Rick Geerts tied for third place.

Left:

Joe Field's brass "O" Scale L & N M1. Joe added decals, fireman and engineer figures, and weathered it using chalk dust and rust colors. A coal load was added to the tender. The photo of Rick's model is on page 4.

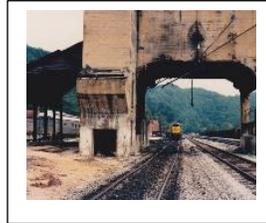
CONTEST Continued from Page 3



Left:

Rick Geert's HO Union Pacific 4-6-2 #4073. Rick weathered the model with an airbrush and added a coal load to the tender.

Correction: The location of the photo entered by Joe Fields in the September contest (see page 5) was incorrectly identified by the editor. Rather than Ravenna, KY. Joe took the photo in Harlan, KY.



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Right:

There are not many local modelers who model in Z-scale, at least that we are aware of.

Chris Broughton MMR made this "quick & dirty" Z-scale diorama using a photo that he edited to create the backdrop, a segment of track, and a piece of foamcore board covered with 2mm static grass. The entire scene is only 12" wide, 4" deep, and 4 1/2" tall. The locomotive is made by American Z-Line (AZL). The car is a Micro-Trains car that he weathered using artist oils and Q-tips, then added a coat of grime and dust with an airbrush. Chris body-mounted the couplers and added FVM metal wheels to the trucks.



Left: Size comparison.

Chris added a 3D-printed AC unit to the cab, and used two different sizes of channel to create the antenna stands. The "patches" are custom made - basically snagged from a photograph, scaled to size, printed on decal film, and applied over the original number. He also fabricated the full pilots from styrene and body-mounted the couplers.

The original structure photo came from textures.com., photo-edited to increase its height and length, blank-out the first story windows, and add various loading dock doors.

Chris reported that now he has a presentable scene for photographing the handful of Z-scale locomotives and freight cars he has.

Photos by Chris Broughton

PITTSBURGH 1970

By Rob Cooper



During one of the operating sessions on my model railroad last year, I concluded based on the number of regular operators attending that I wanted to add some type of a switching layout in the main room (adjacent to the railroad room) of the basement close to the bar area where people eat dinner and have snacks throughout the evening during the session. Initially I started working on an N scale layout and quickly determined I would rather stick with HO scale as my main railroad is in HO. The learning curve was a little too steep for a new scale for me at this point in my life.

So here is my version of a small industrial area in Pittsburgh in 1970 with a total of 12 switching industries. One end of the layout is a partially

hidden small six track staging area. The rolling stock is shuffled between the six tracks by hand to the center track which goes between two backdrops and into the main switching area. The layout is divided into two sections with a dead end at the far end of the branch line from staging going through the middle with a run around. As you see in one of the photos, one operator stands on one side while the other on the opposite side. Each operator has their own PRR GP7 to complete the switching of their six industries. The runaround track is shared and time coordinated by both operators in and out of staging.



Pictured with me is fellow division 8 member Barry Christensen who has operated the switching lay out with me several times over the past few months, refining the operation. I am using car cards and waybills for the switching moves. Until I have named all 12 industries, I am simply using numbers for them. If the waybill has the number zero showing, it goes to staging. If it has a number 1 through 12 showing, it goes to the appropriately numbered industry on the layout. The cards are simply flipped upside down for either the number zero or the appropriate number showing for the next time the layout is operated -- a simple way until I get industries named.

It takes approximately 30 minutes for two operators to run the session. At the end of that, two more guys can step in, flip the cards and reverse the operation. That will give four operators about an hour throughout the evening to have some additional “play time” during one of my regular operating sessions.

In conclusion, I am looking forward to having the whole group down -- after the pandemic is over -- to enjoy the main railroad and this new addition -- in an evening of Ops, food, and fun. Below: Photos along the tracks. Photos by Rob Cooper.



JOHN KELLY PASSES AWAY

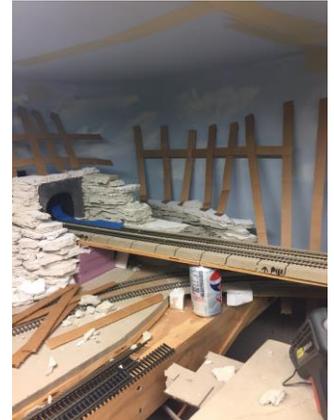
John Kelly passed away October 4 at 91 years of age. Although inactive with the Division recently, John was a long-time member of Division 8. A PRR modeler, over the years John hosted Division meetings at his home, and opened his layout for local and convention layout tours.

John retired from the Louisville Naval Ordnance Station. His wife Helen preceded him in death. He is survived by a sister and a brother, three children and three grandchildren

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Joe Fields, AP Chairman

Hello everyone. As we move further into fall, I hope you've discovered that project that you have been putting off and decided to finally tackle it. As for myself I have actually started on the physical part of my Scenery certificate. October 14th and 15th I started constructing the first tunnel and the foundation for the background trees. I used broken pieces of ceiling tile to form the basic shape of the rocks which were then covered with joint compound and smoothed out with a small paint brush dipped frequently in water. The foundation for the background trees was formed with cardboard strips inter laced and hot glued to the benchwork and the backdrop. Next red rosin paper was cut to resemble the tops of mountains and hot glued to the cardboard strips. As this section continues the rosin paper will be coated with full strength Elmer's glue and then puff balls made out of poly fil and Woodland Scenic course turf will be made to represent the thick tree canopy that you see in Eastern KY.



This method is following Howard Zane's ideas using cardboard strips, rosin paper and glue.

Thanks Howard! I'm hoping that I will be able to complete this section and have it judged in time to obtain my MMR before the end of the year.

How about you? What are you working on to obtain MMR status? I know for some of you it's a matter of paperwork, for others it's one more certificate, and still others just need to make up your minds to get started. In regards to the tunnel, my grandson is real excited that the train is actually running through a tunnel, he was having me just set up a tunnel portal and letting the train run under it. Progress makes everyone happy. Well I guess that's it for this time. Remember if you need something judged or need help figuring out how to do something just give me a call or email. Have fun!!

**CELEBRATION STATION**

Kevin Jones receives his first place Division 8 contest certificate from Superintendent Fred Soward by curbside delivery at our October 4 Celebration Station event. *Photo by Barbara Soward*

Our next Celebration Station event will be Sunday March 28, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Join us at the 600 Building parking lot from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. We'll have sanitizer and be taking Company Store orders. And if you preorder, you can pick up Company Store orders and avoid the postage charge. We will also be presenting any Achievement Certificates earned since the last Celebration Station. If you earned a Contest Certificate, stop by and pick it up.

SILVER SPIKE 2020

Ron Ellison, Media Committee Chairman

On Saturday October 24, 2020 the Media Committee, with the assistance of Mike & Theresa Berry, filmed the 2020 Silver Spike presentation at the home of the recipient. We will share the video and some still photos at the November 21, 2020 general meeting. After the meeting we'll be posting the video to the Division 8 YouTube Channel and the photos to the Division 8 Google Photos page. And look for some photos and an article in the December Pie Card about this year's deserving recipient. We're sure you will agree that this individual meets and exceeds the qualifications to receive the 2020 Silver Spike Award. As it states on the Division 8 webpage, "It goes to individuals who have given exemplary service to Division 8. Oftentimes this service is minimally recognized." One of the purposes of the Silver Spike Award is recognition to those that are deserving yet "minimally recognized".

NOVEMBER ZOOM GATHERING

On Saturday November 14, 2020, 2:00 PM we will gather again for the Division 8 ZOOM Gathering. This month the presenters will be in the following order:

- Jim Petro - Layout Tour (Former Division 8 member and Russ Weis's friend now in Reno Nevada)
- Kevin Jones - Up-scaling for On30 - A Tale of Two Hoppers
- Tom Guenther - What's New on Tom's L&N Layout

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 November 14th!

BYLAWS VOTE

A reminder that we will hold a vote to approve the revised Bylaws at the November 21, 2020 General Meeting.

We will send another copy of the revised bylaws with the meeting reminder about a week before the November meeting. In the meantime, you can view the current and revised bylaws on the Division 8 webpage here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/membership.html> .

If you have any access issues, send a request to Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com . Someone from the Bylaws Committee will get back to you.

KEEP CONNECTED

Division 8 Media Committee

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

Did you know if you're not technically inclined, you can dial into a virtual meeting from your landline or mobile phone. Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) and enter the Meeting ID and then the Passcode when prompted. Use *6 to mute/unmute and *9 to raise your hand. Or we will help you login on your computer, tablet or smartphone if you contact us - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

DECEMBER OPEN BULL SESSION

Since our Christmas Party has been cancelled, and we normally don't meet in December, Mark Hedge suggested at the October meeting that we have a Zoom get together. The Division 8 Board of Directors discussed this at their October meeting and thought this would be a good idea.

The date will be December 19th from 2 to 4 PM. It will have an open format with no agenda. More information will be in the December Pie Card.



Left: Norfolk & Western 1218 (BLI) leads an excursion past the Dew Drop Inn (formerly Green Door Lounge) as it rolls through West Hillside on Ed Brennan's L & N Blackberry Branch. The big articulated's flanges are squealing as they negotiate the tight curves on the branch. The Dew Drop Inn is a Blair Line craftsman kit that fits perfectly in this location. Under new management, the Inn has an enhanced menu and great music that attract a variety of patrons, many of them railroad employees. *Models and photo: Ed Brennan, MMR.*

Right: No orders to pick up at West Buffalo tower as this Detroit train is only a few miles from the yard. A scene on Russ Weis's NYC layout.



Photo by Russ Weis

OFFICERS

Superintendent:	Fred Soward	502-499-0770
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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

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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

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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 you then pay online with your credit card.

If you aren't able to get to Celebration Station on October 4th, we can ship you 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 merch is no longer possible. We will ship your order via USPS and invoice you for postage at the least expensive rate along with your merch.

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 Holiday rush. But get your order in right away. The clock waits for no one.

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 Division 8 Polo Shirts,
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 click on "Company
 Store".



