Charlie Keeling Monthly Model Contest Rules

Background:

The Charlie Keeling monthly contest is named after the man who served as the Division 8 contest chairman for twenty years. Charlie's dedication to administering the contest has contributed to increased member participation, and his devotion and countless hours of service has shaped the contest into what it is today.

The monthly contest was originally established as a mechanism to bring model railroad items into a "railroad sterile" meeting environment. To encourage members to bring models, a non-judging, popular vote system was put in place to determine the winner. Furthermore, rules were established that would allow any member to participate regardless of skill level. The contest is independent of the NMRA achievement program and was never meant to compete with it.

Over the years additional incentives have been offered to further increase member participation. A point system was established, which awards points for monthly contest participation and for placing first, second, or third in any monthly contest. At the end of the contest year monetary awards are presented to first, second, and third place finishers.

The contest continues to be a popular monthly activity for Division 8 members. It allows every member to participate without the fear of being judged. It spawns modeling discussions, provides inspiration, and facilitates comradery among the membership.

In 2020, because of the pandemic, the contest went virtual. Originally because we couldn't meet. But it became apparent that participation increased because all members in Division 8 could participate. Members are welcome to bring their models to the Membership Meeting to share with the other members. But the contest will now remain virtual with viewing and voting online.

Monthly Contest Rules:

1. You must be a Division Eight member in good standing, or a member of a 100% NMRA Club that is situated within Division 8 in good standing, to enter the contest.
2. You can enter any model consistent with the monthly category, including works in progress.
3. You can enter just one entry per category into each monthly contest.
4. Entries that have won first place in any prior Contest cannot be entered in the same contest category.
5. You must submit a contest entry form using the Google Forms document on the Division 8 website. Separately through email to Division 8, submit up to the maximum

number of photos specified for a particular month's contest in JPG or JPEG format only.

6. Entries must reflect the work of the entrant.
7. You may have someone else place your entry into the contest under your name.
8. The winner of the contest will be determined by popular vote.
9. No official judging will take place as part of the contest.
10. A member may cast 1 vote in each category in each monthly contest.
11. Voting will take place by the Division 8 ballot received by email from Division 8.
12. The Contest Committee may make further stipulations as needed in advance of each monthly contest as long as such stipulations do not conflict with the contest and scoring rules set forth herein.

Scoring:

1. Each individual entering an item in the monthly contest will receive one participation point regardless of their number of entries for that month.
2. The individual whose entry receives the most votes will receive an additional three points for first place. The first place winner will also receive a certificate of award.
3. The individual whose entry receives the second most votes will receive an additional two points for second place.
4. The individual whose entry receives the third most votes will receive one additional point for third place.
5. In the event of a tie for first place, all tying entrants for first place will receive three additional points and a certificate of award. If two entrants tie for first place, there will not be a second place award. If three or more entrants tie for first place, there will not be a second or third place award.
6. In the event of a tie for second place, all tying entrants for second place will receive two additional points. There will not be a third place award.
7. In the event of a tie for third place, all tying entrants for third place will receive one additional point.
8. When there are 10 or more entries, two first place awards (three points each) will be given and one second place award will be given (two points).
9. Points will accumulate throughout the contest cycle, which runs from August through June. At the end of the cycle, the member with the most points is awarded first place, the member with the second most points is awarded second place, and the member with the third most points is awarded third place. The first tiebreaker is the number of entry points. The second tie breaker is the number of first place votes.

Awards:

In the form of Scale Reproductions gift cards:

$100 for first place
$75 for second place
$50 for third place

Monthly Categories:

JANUARY	FREIGHT CARS
FEBRUARY	NON-STEAM MOTIVE POWER
MARCH	STRUCTURES
APRIL	PASSENGER CARS
MAY	CABOOSES
JUNE	OPEN LOADS
JULY	No Contest
AUGUST	MOW EQUIPMENT
SEPTEMBER	PHOTOS split into 2 contests MODEL and PROTOTYPE
OCTOBER	STEAM LOCOMOTIVES
NOVEMBER	DISPLAYS
DECEMBER	HIGHWAY VEHICLES