



# The Pie Card



Division Eight Newsletter - Mid-Central Region, National Model Railroad Association

Volume 50

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Number 8

## From the Superintendent's Desk



Many of you have heard that I recently switched from Digitrax to NCE to run my railroad. This is true.

The next question everyone asks is why.

The quick answer is I was having freeze ups during ops sessions. And two other modelers having about the same

size layouts, with about the same number of sound locos running on their layout had similar problems.

Our old friend Jim Petro is one of these modelers who switched to NCE a couple of years ago. I visited Jim back in March and during my visit Jim hosted an ops session where I got to use the NCE system. This was my second ops using NCE, but this last time I really paid attention to the particulars.

Recently I held an ops session and all went well. Everyone attending had high marks for my new system.

Some Q&A's:

Q. Was it easy to switch to NCE?

A. Pretty much. I did have to replace my UP5's -- but I could still use the existing Loconet cables. Do note that NCE uses a different set of four wires in the cable.

Wait a minute, you said four wires, the Loconet cable has six wires in it. Very true -- however, Digitrax only uses four of the six!

Q. Is your new system wireless?

A. Yes, however, unlike Digitrax there are no UR91/92's, just one antenna centrally located above the backdrop. The antenna is a black stick, like on some cars, so all you can see is three inches of that.

Q. Do the NCE throttles use 9 volt batteries?

A. Sorry - 4 AAA's per throttle.

Q. Are there rechargeable AAA's available?

A. Yes. And here is a neat aftermarket feature - YOU can add a couple of components to your throttles and purchase an eight port charging device and charge your batteries inside the throttles!

Q. Is the NCE owner's manual any more user friendly than the Digitrax manual?

A. Only by a little bit.

Q. Is the NCE system perfect?

A. No, as with any two competing systems, if you could combine the two you would have a great system.

Q. Would you suggest others switch?

A. No, there are many layouts in the area that have had little or no trouble with the Digitrax system. So as they say, "if it ain't broke, don't mess with it!"

I hope this answers some of the basic questions you may have - please feel free to email me if you have any more.

FYI: I still have some UT4D's and a PS2012 power supply for sale at a good price.

Russ Weis

## TIME TABLE

**Aug 20**, Sat, 2PM, Div.8 Mtg. Iroquois Post.

**Sep 17**, Sat, 2PM, Div.8 Mtg. Iroquois Post.

**Oct 15**, Sat, 2PM Div.8 Mtg., Iroquois Post.

**Nov 17**, Thur, 7:30PM Div. 8 Mtg, Sou.Ind Club, Jeffersonville.

**Nov 19**, Sat, 10-3, Div8 Train Show and Sale, Moose Lodge.

**Dec**, no meeting, Holiday Party, to be announced.

INSIDE: New Meeting Location \* Pike Showcase \* Celebrating 50 years-Silver Spike \* Pictures from the 2016 Picnic.

## CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST

*Fred Soward, Contest Chairman*

<b>August</b>	<b>MOW Equipment</b>
September	Photos
October	Steam Locomotives
November	Displays/Dioramas
December	NO CONTEST
January	Freight Cars
February	Diesel Locomotives
March	Commercial Structures
April	Passenger Cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open Loads
July	NO CONTEST

Thanks to everyone for your help and participation during the 2015-2016 contest year. Congratulations to our 2015-2016 contest year winners: First place, Bob Kuchler with 20 points; Second place, Rick Maloney with 13 points; Third place, Barry Christensen with 12 points. The contest standings will reset at the August meeting. There were 77 entries submitted by 23 individuals over the entire year.

Bring your favorite “MOW” or Maintenance of Way equipment to the August meeting. 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.

As previously announced at the June 2016 meeting, we are tweaking the rules just a bit beginning with the August 2016 meeting. The change is that the individual who comes in third place each month will receive an additional point.

As always, everyone who participates by bringing a contest entry receives one point for that month, regardless of the number of votes received. The person in first place each month receives an additional three points and the person in second place each month receives an additional two points. Previously there were no points awarded for coming in third except for the participation point. We feel that this modification to our contest rules closes a gap on points awarded and reflects a change in the level of competition in our contest since we instituted the requirement to not only display a model in the contest, but also describe the work that was performed on the model.

I’ll have blank contest entry forms for anyone who needs one at the August meeting. You can save yourself some time at the meeting by downloading the entry form from the Division 8 website or Facebook page and completing it prior to arriving at the meeting.



### **AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION:**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 2 PM AT IROQUOIS POST AMERICAN LEGION, 7323 ST. ANDREWS CHURCH RD, 40214.** Note the new address, see the article below for details.

Refreshments: Bob Dawson.

The Iroquois Post sold their property on Woodlawn Ave. in July. This was unexpected (even by them). They are leasing a property at 7323 St. Andrews Church Road, 40214. They have the ground floor of two story building. A photo, maps, and directions are on page 3 of this issue.

### **SILVER SPIKE NOMINATIONS**

You should have received the Official Nomination Form for the Silver Spike Award in the mail.

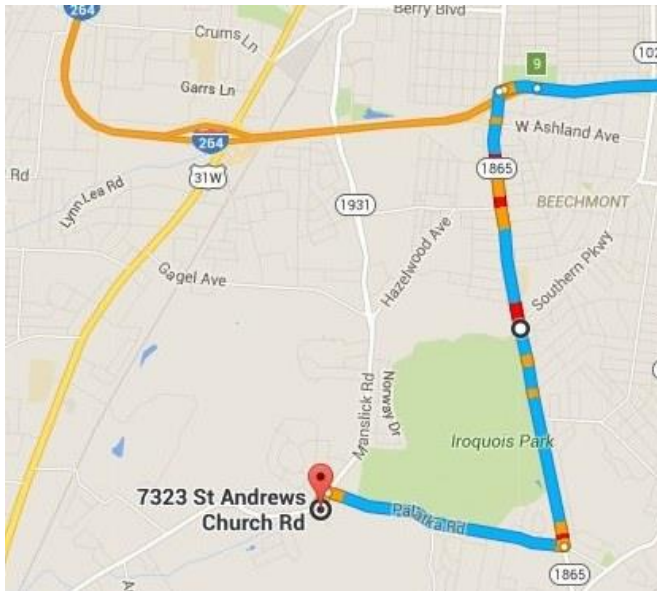
If you choose to nominate someone, read the criteria carefully. A nominee should stand “head and shoulders” above others by his/her exemplary service to the NMRA at National, Regional or Division level. The nominee must be a member of NMRA.

The person submitting the nomination must be a member in good standing. Nominations must be made in writing on the form provided. Nominations will be mailed to Jack Diehl, and must be postmarked no later than September 15, 2016 to be accepted.

You must state clearly your reasons for nominating this person and his/her qualifications. Nominations without written qualifications will be rejected. The Silver Spike is presented at the Holiday Party in December.

### **MAINTENANCE TIES FUND 2016**

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. \$40 John Ottman, Stephen Taylor, John Czwerwinski; \$25 Ed Brennan; \$22 Jim Kuzirian. \$20 Charles Brohm.



**DIRECTIONS TO 7323 ST. ANDREWS CHURCH RD.**

From westbound on I-264 (Watterson Expressway).

- Exit 9: Taylor Blvd.
- Left on Taylor Blvd.
- Taylor Blvd. becomes New Cut Road at Iroquois Park.
- New Cut Road south to Palatka Road (Pizza Hut on the corner).
- Right on to Palatka Road.
- Continue west on Palatka Road to St. Andrews Church Road. (Palatka Road ends here.)
- Left on Palatka Road, 7323 is on the left. Drive between the buildings and park in the rear.

From KY 841-I-265 Snyder Freeway.

- West on Snyder Freeway.
- Exit 6 to New Cut Road.
- Right (North) on New Cut Road to Palatka Road.
- Left on Palatka Rd.



Left: The new meeting location is the two story building in the center.

We will probably enter from the parking lot in rear.

*Photo and map from Google Maps.*

**2015-2016 CONTEST WINNERS**

Right: Congratulations to our 2015-2016 contest year winners. From left to right, Rick Maloney, second place; Bob Kuchler, first place; Barry Chistensen, third place; and Fred Soward contest chairman.

Awards and gift cards were presented at the Division Picnic in July.

The contest standings will reset at the August meeting.

*Photo by Bob Dawson*



PIKE SHOWCASE-JOHN CAMPBELL'S LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE



Above left: Conductor Charlie Buccola is handling the uncoupling chores while engineer Jonathan Ruggaard controls the locomotive at Ravel Yard in Aberdeen.

Above right: Local off the branch returning to Aberdeen.

Right: Switching the tipple at Inferno.

John's layout will be on the 2017 MCR Convention's Sunday layout tour.

Photos by Bob Dawson



**TRACKSIDE WITH ERIC WAGGONER**

Northbound CSX at HK, Anchorage, KY.  
Eric took this July 10, 2016.

**NOT GETTING THE PIE CARD ON EMAIL?**

If you have email you should be receiving the E-Pie Card each month on your computer. If you are not, contact Tom Guenther: [tom@aye.net](mailto:tom@aye.net).

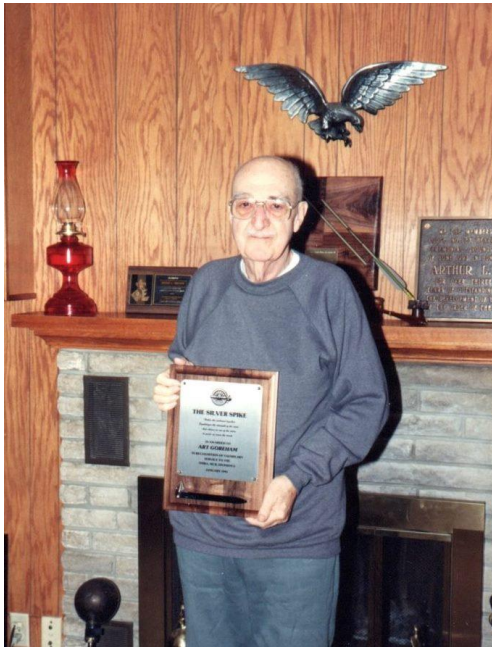
**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**

By Bob Dawson

**SILVER SPIKE AWARD**



Silver Spike Chairman Jack Diehl will soon be asking for nominations for the Silver Spike Award. In 2011 Charlie Keeling, the first chairman, wrote a short history of the award.



Above: Art Goreham, recipient of the first Silver Spike Award.

*Photo by Charlie Keeling*

**HISTORY OF THE SILVER SPIKE AWARD**

By Charlie Keeling

Greg Matthews was superintendent when the Silver Spike Award was started, about 1991 or 1992. He formed a committee consisting of:

- Charlie Keeling
- Joe O’Gara
- Bob Frankrone
- Greg Matthews, member ex officio

We came up with guidelines and requirements to award the Silver Spike to a member. The first award was to Art Goreham in 1992. None was awarded in 1993. The Silver Spike was awarded to Bob Johnson in 1994 and Bob Brown in 1995. Since then there have been 26 awarded.

Each year there was a secret ballot mailed to members in good standing. The ballots were counted and the award was made at the Division Christmas Party. After the ballots were counted I was told who the winner was. I would then order the award plaque and mount the silver spike on it. I did this until last year when Jack Diehl took it over. I enjoyed doing this for the time that I did it.

As stated on the award, the purpose is to recognize exemplary service to Division 8 MCR NMRA. As Jack Diehl explains it, “The nominee should stand “head and shoulders” above others by his or her exemplary service”.

Since its inception 34 members have been honored. The Silver Spike award is not a competition among nominees. Members decide by their vote if the person meets the criteria to receive the award. If there are multiple nominees, each is regarded on their own merits. To receive the award nominees must be approved by 51% of those voting. Some years there have been multiple awards presented. Last year no one received the required 51% and no award was presented.

The award itself is a wooden plaque with a brushed aluminum plate mounted at the top. A railroad spike is mounted below the plate. Originally the “silver” spike was hard chrome plated. Over the years chrome plating became cost prohibitive. A few awards were presented with the representation of the spike engraved on the plate. Today the spike is cleaned and painted with Dupli-Color chrome paint.

**OPERATING SESSIONS**

Two local model railroad clubs offer monthly operating sessions.

The K & I Model Railroad Club holds operating sessions at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of every month. Their next operating sessions are August 17 and September 21.

All members of the K & I, Division 8, or any NMRA members are welcome to attend and participate in the sessions.

When attending an operating session, bring a DCC-equipped locomotive and caboose equipped with Kadee couplers. Shorter four-axle diesel road locomotives operate the best for our operating session. Also bring a Digitrax throttle. If you do not have this equipment, do not let that deter you from attending. The Club has some extra equipment that you may use during the operating session.

*The K & I CLUB is located at the Old Firehouse, 3713 West Hwy. 146 in Buckner, KY.*

Directions:

- From Louisville take I-71 to Exit 18 (KY 393).
- Turn North (left) onto KY 393 to LaGrange Rd. (KY 146).
- Cross the railroad tracks and turn right onto KY 146.
- The club house on the left.

The Southern Indiana Railroad club holds operating sessions at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of every month. Their session in September will be September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Southern Indiana club requests that you bring a Digitrax throttle and DCC equipped locomotive if you have one.

They are located in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, Walnut and Chestnut Streets, Jeffersonville.

Directions:

- Take exit 0 from I-65 to Court Avenue.
- Continue on Court Avenue ½ miles to Walnut Street.
- Turn right on Walnut and go two blocks to Chestnut. Turn left on Chestnut, the church is on the southeast corner, park in the lot on the east side of the church. Enter from the parking lot. The club is in the basement (there is an elevator).

**THE PIE CARD NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS**

*Pie Card Editor Bob Dawson*

While the main purpose of the Pie Card is to provide news and plans for Division 8 activities, it also hopes to provide information of interest to our members. To accomplish this we need help from you, our members. We are looking for articles and photos that cover the numerous aspects of model railroading. Don't be shy. Share your knowledge and interests with others.

Photos: Photos for the Pie Card don't have to meet the high resolution image standards required for commercial publications. Please send photos in the JPEG format as an attachment to an email. In the email describe what is seen in the photo. If a model, who's (If not yours), scale, and any details about it. The information on required on the monthly model contest form (available on the Division Web Site) is a good outline to use. If a prototype photo, where was it taken and anything you think of interest. If you didn't take the photos, tell us who did.

Articles: Please submit in Word or in an email. As with photos, the articles can be about layout visits, how you made or detailed a model, or a railfan trip or rail museum you may have visited. Don't include photos in the document, but send them separately.

Articles and photos can be submitted by email to: [dawsobl@aol.com](mailto:dawsobl@aol.com). You can also give to me on a CD or thumb drive at a meeting or Division Event. CD's and drives will be returned. .

Keep in mind, if it interested you it will probably be of interest to others also.



## CONVENTION NEWS – LAYOUTS NEEDED.

Your Convention Committee is now meeting monthly. The contract was finalized with the Galt House a year ago. Since then we have been working on clinics, rail and non-rail tours, layout tours and operating sessions.

**Speaking of layouts.** If you would like to show off your layout to our guests, see Bob Dawson at a meeting or call him at 502-368-2607 or email him at: [dawsobl@aol.com](mailto:dawsobl@aol.com). Check the Division Website and the Pie Card for updates on the Convention.

Right: New York Central Mohawk #3149, a 4-8-2 wheel arrangement usually referred to as a Mountain-type, is in charge of a coal drag on the Kentucky & Indiana Model Railroad Club's Buckner layout. NYC named its locomotive types after rivers along its system, with the Hudson (4-6-4) being one of the most famous. Seen here crossing Crabapple Creek on K&I's former L&N trackage, the big 4-8-2 makes easy work of her charge; the fires are clean. The HO model is by Broadway Limited Imports. One prototype Mohawk survives; it is located in Elkhart, IN at the National New York Central Museum.

The model belongs to Ed Brennan. Ed provided the caption and photo.



A set of EMD F3's power a mixed freight on Doc Shane's HO Jefferson and Ohio Valley Railroad. Doc custom painted and lettered the locomotives for his railroad. This will be one of the railroads open for the MCR 2017 Convention Sunday layout tours.

*Photo by Bob Dawson*

**The Southern Indiana (Model) Railroad is hosting a Model Train Show and Swap meet at the Sellersburg Moose Lodge, 1040 S. Indiana Ave. in Sellersburg. Train Show only Friday August 26, 1-8PM. Show and Swap Meet Saturday August 27, 10AM-4PM. Admission is free.**

**DIVISION 8 PICNIC, JULY 23 2016**



Lunch was at Ricardo's Grill and Pub. The restaurant is in a former Southern Railway Passenger Depot in Versailles, KY. Our dining room was in the former baggage area.

After lunch we went to the Bluegrass Railway Museum and boarded the 2 PM train to High Bridge.

While it was hot day, we kept our cool in an air conditioned car.

At High Bridge we disembarked to view the bridge. It served the Southern for 100 years before being taken out of service in the 1980's.

*Unless noted otherwise, photos by Bob Dawson*



Below: Alicia Hardesty climbing aboard to take a closer look at the locomotive.

*Photo by Fred Soward*



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Tom Guentner		502-363-3113	
Fred Soward		502-499-0770	
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Deadline for submission of articles is the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month.



**Mid-Central NMRA  
 Region Convention**

**May 18-21, 2017  
 Louisville, Kentucky**

**The PIE CARD**  
 Division 8, MCR, NMRA  
 7305 Ticonderoga Dr.  
 Louisville, KY 40214