

The Pie Card

Volume 55, August 2021, Number 8



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

What a busy summer it's already been this year! We had a great turnout at the annual Division 8 picnic at The Depot Railroad Museum in Salem, Indiana. Lots of good food, good conversation, a great talk by Charlie Buccola, and a bunch of awards. Be sure to take a look at Barry Christensen's contest column for the winners of the annual contest and Mark Norman's Achievement Program column for the AP award presented at the picnic. John Shields, Superintendent of Cincinnati's Division 7, presented Ron Ellison with the annual Wenderfer Award (see the June 2021 issue of The PieCard). Many thanks go to Mike Berry for all his coordination efforts to make the picnic a success.

About mid-July, I started a project out in the garage. It's a little diversion from all the other work that happens around here every month. It's also a deviation from working on the Santa Cruz & Felton and from working on Achievement Program projects. More on this project later in this issue of The PieCard.

Division 8's Instagram account went live last month. Why are we doing Instagram? If you're asking that question, you missed the June 2021 clinic by James Knabb. When we asked him about social media platforms that were of interest to younger Model Railroaders, Instagram was the answer. That's why we're going there. We hope you'll join us there, too.

Bob Dawson & I attended the Division 7 Train Show in Cincinnati. We met up with some of y'all, but from what I've seen on Facebook, a lot more of you attended the show, just not as early (or as late) as Bob & me. We did a bit of railfanning, too, while we were up there.

This month brings us back to face-to-face meetings in the 600 Room. If you can't be there in person, we'll be using Zoom to broadcast the meetings at the same time. We've done a lot of work in preparation for the hybrid meeting experience. We anticipate a good experience for everyone, both in-person in the 600 Room and for those connected virtually through Zoom. Obviously, there's going to be some learning to it so don't expect it to be perfect right out of the starting gate.

Finally, Barbara and I had a safe and enjoyable trip to Minnesota and Wisconsin to visit friends and family last month. There was even a bit of rail fanning along the way. Mostly, we just enjoyed the visiting and the slower pace of being away for a week. Hardly anyone knew that I presented my July Gathering segment really remotely – from an hour north of Duluth, Minnesota. My youngest grandson also learned a few new video editing techniques because I also edited the video and uploaded it to the Division 8 YouTube Channel while we were there.

We sincerely hope everyone has been able to (safely) take some time this summer to enjoy family, friends, and just being away for a while.

MEMBER WELFARE REPORT

By Rick Wehr, Chairman

Our condolences to Tom Guenther whose brother Allen passed away on June 27th. Allen was 69 years old. A sympathy card was sent to the family. A get well card and a gift card was sent to Patsy Copley, wife of Don Copley, who had knee surgery. I will be going into the hospital for surgery as this issue goes to press.

TIME TABLE

Aug 14, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Gathering on Zoom
Aug 21, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Mtg. Hybrid meeting, 600 Room and Zoom
Aug 28, Sat, NMRAX, Virtual
Sep 11, Sat 2 PM Div 8 Bull Session on Zoom
Sep 18, Sat 2 PM, Div 8 Mtg. Hybrid Meeting, 600 Room and Zoom
Sep 25, NMRAX, Virtual

AUGUST 2021 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

August	MOW equipment and highway vehicles
September	Photos (model) and photos (prototype)
October	Steam locomotives
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

The first, second and third place winners for the 2020-2021 Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest year were announced by division superintendent Fred Soward at the Division 8 picnic on Saturday, July 31, at the Salem, Indiana, depot museum. First place is Bob Frankrone with 21 points for the year. Second place (using scoring rule #9) is Rick Geerts with 18 points for the year, and 11 entry points to break the tie (Rick entered every contest during the model year!) Third place is Steve Lasher with 18 points for the year, and 7 entry points to break the tie. During this contest year we had 16 total modelers participate with 72 total models entered, plus 4 "just for fun." Fred presented certificates and Scale Reproductions gift cards as prizes for our winners. Congratulations!

Final standings for the 2020-2021 Charlie Keeling Virtual Model Contest are as follows: Bob Frankrone first with 21 points; Rick Geerts second with 18 points (11 entry points) and Steve Lasher third with 18 points (7 entry points); Kevin Jones follows with 15; Russ Weis next with 14; Craig Hatter with 13; Joe Fields with 11; Paul Downs with 8; Stan White with 6; Ed Brennan and Bruce DeMaeyer tied with 5 each; Ron Ellison and Al Goodman tied with 4 each; and Daryl Arend, Joe Martin and Eric Waggoner tied with 1 each.

For August 2021, we will begin the 2021-2022 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest year with the revised category of two separate contests for M of W Equipment and also for Highway Vehicles, with separate entries for each, and separate votes for each. Members are invited to submit entries for M of W Equipment and also to submit entries for Highway Vehicles.

The contest will now be hybrid! Model submissions and voting will continue to be on-line just like the previous
(Continued in column 2)



AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION

The August meeting is 2 PM Saturday August 21 at the 600 Room, first floor of the 600 Building, 600 N. Hurstbourne Pkwy. 40222. Use the Whittington Pkwy. entrance. This will be a hybrid meeting; if you can't be there in person, we'll be using Zoom to broadcast the meetings at the same time.

Refreshments and snacks will not be available at the 600 Room for this meeting. **We expect that anyone attending the face-to-face meeting has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.**

Although we won't require it, anyone in the 600 Room may wear a face mask if they feel comfortable doing so. To maintain the security of the meeting, the Zoom connection information will be sent directly to members by email about a week prior to the meeting and will not be published online. Mike Berry and Russ Weis will be presenting the program describing the signal systems on Russ' New York Central Railroad.

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

contest year. Modelers are now invited to bring their models for display only (no additional voting) IN PERSON at Division 8 monthly meetings where the month's winners will be announced and a first-place certificate awarded.

For contest information, go here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/contest.html> . To enter the August Contest, email 1 to 3 entry photos 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 (see page 7 this issue). The judging is strictly people's choice. If you would also like your model to be judged for the Achievement Program, contact Mark Norman and he will arrange to have AP judges assist.



2021 PICNIC

43 Division 8 members and guests attended the 2021 Division 8 picnic at The Depot Museum in Salem, IN on July 31, 2021. *Photo by Bob Dawson*

Right: Is it Larry, Curly, and Moe? No, its our own (left to right) Fred Soward, Stan White, and Ron Ellison who assisted our caterer, County Cookin, with serving the food. *Photo by Barbara Soward*



Left: John Shields, Superintendent of MCR Division 7, presented the Wenderfer Award to Ron Ellison. The award is presented annually by the Mid Central Region and is sponsored by Cincinnati's Division 7. Ron received the award for promoting the hobby within the Mid Central Region. *Photo by Barbara Soward.*



Right: AP Chairman, Mark Norman, presented Fred Soward with his Association Official Certificate of Achievement. *Photo by Bob Dawson*



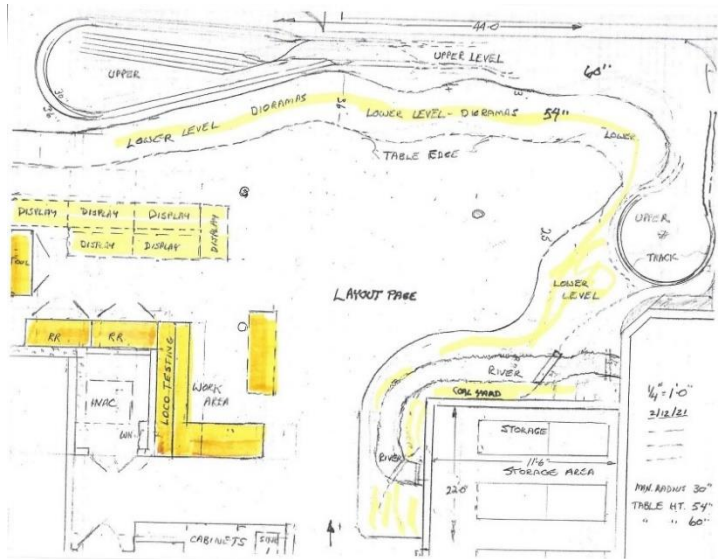
Left: Annual Charlie Keeling Model Contest winners. From left to right: First Place, Bob Frankrone; Second Place, Rick Geerts; Third Place, Steve Lasher. Bob Frankrone was also presented Monthly Contest certificates for August 2020 (photography) and June 2021 (Open Loads). Kevin Jones, not shown, was presented with his certificate for first place in the May contest (caboose). *Photo by Bob Dawson*



NEWS FROM BOB LAWSON

By Bob Dawson, Pie Card Editor, layout plan and photos by Bob Lawson

Bob Lawson sent me the following. "Attached are a few photos that may be interesting to some of my favorite people over the past 20+ years. Of course, I am talking about my many Division 8 fellow modelers. I could send a lot of fun comments about our times together including many from your "Railroad Flea Markets". I think very often about the Div.8 bar-b-que trips to Danville with about 40% wives and lady friends. And then your caravans and tour buses to my 1st Ohio layout."

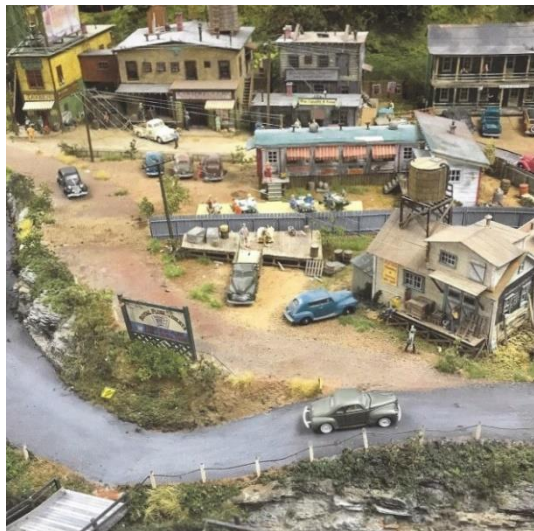
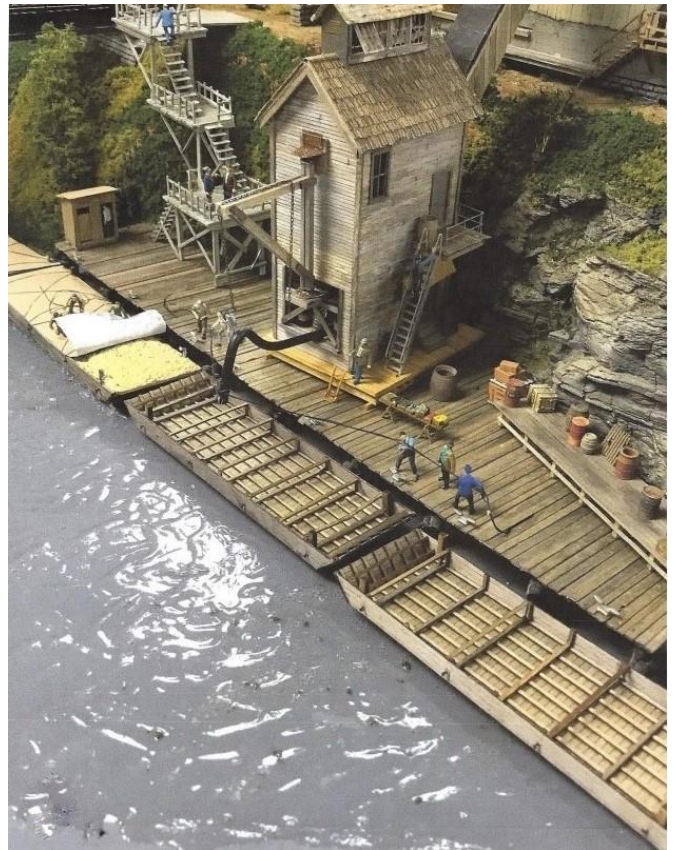


Bob reports that he is again working on his new layout after spending five months in 2020 in a wheelchair waiting on a new knee. He says that while behind, he will catch up.

Left is a sketch of the new layout he is building. You may remember that Bob builds the scenes on his layout on a workbench and then takes them to the layout. He has been able to save many of these scenes along with vehicles, motive power, and cars from his last layout. He is also improving and adding new scenes.

One of the first new scenes is a large diorama that is the beginning of the new Ohio River on the future layout. Using a combination of parts from previous diorama scenes, he created the river town of Hope Valley, KY across the river from Ohio. The photo to the right is "Three Guy's Grain River Shipping," the largest employer in Hope Valley. The Three Guys are Bob's friends and fellow modelers; Jerry Strangarity, Steve Montgomery, and Lee Drake. Bob said they are long time "river rats" who are now major business owners.

Below is the center of Hope Valley.



The workers are loading the barges with grain using a large hose supported by a crane. After the barge is filled, it is covered with a water proof canvas.

Bob wanted to show river movement. He wanted heavy ripples on the water to show river flow. He used gloss Mod Podge over Enviro Tex over the painted bottom. This was a technique suggested to him by Division 8 Member Bob Johnson.

DIVISION 8 T-TRAK, Getting Started

By Fred Soward

As most everyone knows, Bruce DeMaeyer moved to Louisville about a year ago. Which means his membership transferred from Division 10 to Division 8 at the same time. Bruce is the Mid Central Region (MCR) T-TRAK coordinator.

Several MCR Divisions have had successful T-TRAK programs that have become valuable recruiting tools for new model railroaders. Where it's really hit home in those Divisions is with young families and with younger individuals. James Knabb clearly told us in his June 2021 clinic (The Next Generation in Model Railroading) that today's younger model railroader is looking for something that can be completed quickly. While they appreciate and admire the detailed work of more seasoned model railroaders, their focus is in, James' words, "Immediate Gratification." He said that many of his peers like HO scale modular layout construction because it relates well to the Hot Wheels vehicles they had as children. He also said that N scale T-TRAK is frequently used instead because of the smaller size of the modules.

All those reasons got me thinking that we should re-investigate T-TRAK as a Division 8 effort. Bruce DeMaeyer and I have talked at length about how to fire up T-TRAK in Division 8. He created two documents (an SOP and "How to Build a Module") that will help us form the basic premise of T-TRAK in Division 8. As I read through the documents, which included a LOT of options, I was challenged to figure out exactly what was needed to be purchased to complete a T-TRAK double module. I knew I wanted to see a "shopping list." That shopping list would be available to everyone and would describe exactly what was needed to get up and running with a basic T-TRAK double-module. Based on my request, Bruce created a third document titled, "Double Module Shopping List." All three documents have been posted to the Members Section of the Division 8 website.

I've decided that the best way to make sure that all the documents we've posted to the website are correct and will work for someone who has never assembled a T-TRAK module is to go through the process myself. So now you know what the little garage project diversion that I wrote about in this month's "From the Superintendent's Desk" column is all about. On order from CMR are two T-TRAK double-module kits. Once they arrive, they'll join what's already in the garage - a couple packages of Kato track purchased from Scale Reproductions, some paint and screws from Lowe's, and because I wanted to upscale the modules, a set of leveling screws that Randy Coffman delivered when he was in L'ville last month.

In a future issue of The Pie Card, I'll briefly document my efforts to build one of the modules. Hopefully, all will go as planned. If not, we'll revise the documents posted to the Division 8 website as needed. And, I'll have at least one T-TRAK module in the layout at the November 13, 2021, Division 8 Train Show and Sale.

2021 SILVER SPIKE NOMINATIONS

By Ron Ellison

You will soon be receiving an email that Silver Spike nominations for 2021 will be open on Monday August 9, 2021. The nominating period will close 2 weeks later on Sunday August 22, 2021. The email will include nominating instructions and qualifications. Nominations and voting will again be conducted online.

The election will take place online from Monday September 13, 2021 to Sunday September 26, 2021.

Be thinking about who has given exemplary service to Division 8 and should be nominated for the 2021 Silver Spike Award. A list of recipients who have previously received the award is here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/silver-spike.html>

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

By Mark Norman MMR®, AP Chairman

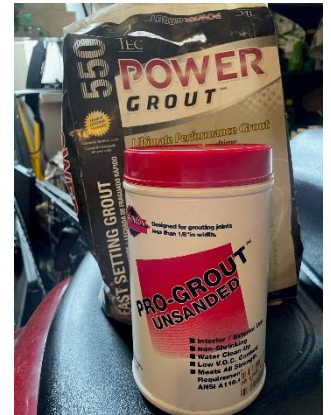
Phonophobia is the fear of noises or voices or one's own voice. There are many who fear public speaking more than death. It makes me wonder how they would handle speaking a funeral? I digress -- might there be a correlation in the hobby we all enjoy? Let's face it, there are many excellent modelers 'out there' and among us who do just fine at their work bench and layout. It's safe being a lone wolf - just a bit lonely. All of us have taken the first step and joined the NMRA. Why take the risk now of participating in the Achievement Program? Face, it *someone* might say *something*! You're darn tooting they will! They will compliment you on your accomplishments and thoughtfully suggest opportunities for improvement. They will learn from you and you from them. We will all have fun and grow together. Speaking of recognition and fun, Fred Soward will be recognized for earning Association Official at the Division Picnic. Join the wolf pack!

USING GROUT FOR MODELING STUCCO

By Bob Kuchler MMR®, photos by the author

(Editor's note: this is a follow up to Bob's presentation at the Division 8 July Gathering.)

While looking at Facebook I discovered an interesting wall covering for buildings. Another modeler was using spackle to coat brick walls to look like stucco. I had a lot of partial containers of grout so I thought I would try that as a substitute. I mixed some with water to a thin paste consistency and used a small spatula to apply it to the brick wall of a model building. I tried a couple of consistencies from thin to thick. Most gave me an acceptable outcome. I waited until it dried and used a pick to chip away at the stucco around windows and doors and the building edges. If the stucco looks too thick it can be sanded with 200 grit sandpaper. Different scales may require a different grit.



Tools that Bob used.

The grout I used was an unsanded grout with a light gray color. There are many different colors of grout, tans and grays from light to dark. I work in N scale so I did not want a lot of texture to the stucco. Larger scales could use a sanded grout for a different look. The building wall under the stucco needs to be painted to help the grout adhere to the wall. This technique is very simple to do and gives a different look to an older building. Using this on a few buildings will add variety to the look of a layout. I intend to try sealing at least one building with clear

flat spray paint and applying a ghost sign to it. I dry brushed a white paint over part of one wall to give some variety to the wall color.



It takes very little to do a wall of a model building. Mixing unsanded grout to a very thin consistency will allow you to paint it on the brick. It can then be wiped with a paper towel or a makeup sponge to remove the grout on the bricks leaving the mortar lines filled. Sanded grout can be applied to rooftops or ground surfaces to add texture to them. Some people have even used grout mixed with ballast on track. It's something different that lends itself to experimenting.

If anyone is interested in trying this technique, I have a few different colors of sanded and unsanded grout that I can share. I have no money in any of it so I can pass the savings on.



TRACK SIDE WITH TERRY SOWARD.

Fred Soward's brother Terry took this photo in Kingman, AZ, while rail fanning in "only" 99-degree weather. Terry said he'd seen the two bookend SW1500 units, but not the blue & white MP15DC before. A little bit of research revealed that the MP15DC was a recent purchase for the industrial switching railroad while the SW1500s have been there almost 10 years. The Kingman Terminal Railroad (KGTR) operates over 3 track miles in the Kingman Airport & Industrial Park.

AUGUST CONTEST TIMELINE

We will send out a reminder but below are some of the Contest timeline dates for August:

- August 7th - First day to submit entries
- August 14th - Last day to submit entries
- August 18th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- August 19th & 20th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 20th
- August 21st - Winners announced at the General Meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd

AUGUST 2021 MEMBER WELFARE FUND REPORT

The primary purpose of the *Member Welfare Fund* is to provide Division 8 members and their immediate families with get well cards for illness and for sympathy cards and donations on behalf of Division 8 for the death of a relative as defined by the member welfare procedures.

Donations fiscal YTD: Ed Brennan-\$30; K&I Model Railroad Club-\$50.

If you wish to donate, email the amount to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com and we'll email you an invoice to pay online. Or call us at (502) 653-5371. Note - Donations were reset when our new fiscal year began on July 1, 2021.

AUGUST ZOOM GATHERING

Division 8 Media Committee

On Saturday August 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM we will gather again for the Division 8 ZOOM Gathering. This month the presenters will be:

- Steve Lasher - Basic Diesel Locomotive Running
- Spring Creek Model Trains - Store tour Part 2 (Including their N scale department)
- Fred & Ron - behind the scenes tour of Division 8 Social Media; Groups.io, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook

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 August 14th!



Registration will open soon. Here are the convention fees:

- \$85.00 Early Registration - Opening Registration to December 31, 2021
- \$95.00 Registration - January 1, 2022 to April 27, 2022
- \$110.00 Late Registration - April 28, 2022 to May 21, 2022
- \$25.00 additional Family Member(s) Registration - any date
- \$40.00 Saturday May 21st ONLY, Individual Registration (One-Day)

Sign up on the website to receive convention updates by email
<https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>

KEEP CONNECTED

These are the ways for Division 8 members to stay in touch and stay together:

- Groups.io
- Join us on Zoom for a virtual meeting - Monthly Gathering and NOW quarterly Bull Session in lieu of the Gathering - Next Bull Session - September 11, 2021
- Division 8 Facebook
- **NEW** - Division 8 Instagram
- Division 8 Webpage
- Attend our monthly General Meeting in person or on Zoom

Why not join Groups.io? It's the best way to learn what it's all about. We'll send you an invite and you can ride it down the track a ways and get off at any stop by unsubscribing.

We are usually online 30 minutes before the start of any Zoom meeting so if you are unsure of your connection, join early. Or we will help you login on your computer, tablet or smartphone if you contact us at - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com a few days before any meeting. Don't forget you can also dial in to any Zoom meeting from a landline or mobile phone - look for the dial up numbers in the Zoom Meeting Information. Get Connected! See your friends! Stay in touch! Learn something new!

OFFICERS

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Clerk:	Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Treasurer:	Mike Berry	502-245-1337

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Tom Guenther	502-363-3113
Russ Weis	502-245-7991
Ron Ellison	502-807-7683

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Achievement Program	Mark Norman	502-797-2062
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Member Welfare	Rick Wehr	502-500-6398
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Train Show and Sale	Ron Ellison	502-807-7683
T-Trak	Bruce DeMaeyer	502-618-0248
Webmaster	Tom Guenther	502-363-3113

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Vice-president:	Jerry Doyle	304-638-2826
Secretary:	Fred Soward	502-499-0770
Treasurer:	John Shields	513-561-8691

If you are not sure who to contact, call (502) 653-5371 and tell us your needs. We'll get back to you. To contact Division 8 or any board member or committee director by email use - division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

THE PIE CARD

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Deadline for submission of articles is the 25th day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month.

TRAIN SHOW & SALE

OUR 31ST YEAR



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Holy Family Parish Saffin Center
3938 POPLAR LEVEL RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40213

- Model Trains in All Scales
- Operating Layouts and Displays
- Retail Sales
- Information Stations
- Hourly Door Prizes!
- Great Food & Beverages
- FREE Parking

ADMISSION

\$6.00 Per Person – Children 12 and under free with an adult

Dealer Tables available - \$30 per table
For information or to reserve dealer tables contact:
Mark Hedge - (812) 288-8037 Email: div8trainshow@gmail.com

Sponsored by Division 8 - Mid Central Region - NMRA

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

Website: <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org>
Facebook: @Division8.MCR.NMRA

DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE

IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Company Store is ALWAYS open for business 24/7/365. Shop anytime here at the NEWLY REMODELED STORE FRONT - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/store.html> .

You can email your order to Division8.MCR.NMRA@gmail.com . Or you can call or text your order to (502) 653-5371. We will confirm your order and email you back an itemized invoice and then pay online with your credit card. We will ship your order via USPS and invoice you for postage at the least expensive rate along with your merch.

Is your Division 8 outfit ready for the resumption of face to face meetings and the Train Show & Sale? Even if you're ZOOMing you should look your best. A hat, shirt or fleece will make you look your best! All our merch is DELUX and priced right. Place an order TODAY for Division 8 Company Store merch!