

# The Pie Card

Volume 55, December 2021, Number 12



Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



## From the Superintendent's Desk

By Fred Soward

Did you enjoy the November 13, 2021, Division 8 Train Show & Sale? I did. But I sure was exhausted after everything was put away Saturday night. I'm guessing a lot of other Division 8 members were pretty tired, too.

The Train Show Committee, as usual, did an amazing job getting everything ready. And, because of all the volunteers, especially on the day of the show, everything ran smoothly. Attendance was high, dealers were happy with their sales, the layouts were packed with people watching trains, people were visiting and talking trains (model & prototype), and the food court line never stopped! Thank you to everyone who had anything at all to do with making it happen. And, hey, let's do it all over again in March, OK?

One last reminder about the Indy Junction 2022 registration fee going up on January 1. Register before the end of the year to save yourself a little bit of cash. It's gonna be a great convention so be sure to get registered NOW.

Briefly looking back on 2021, I note that I did well on some parts of my Model Railroad Task List (MRTL). And did not do so well on others. There was a bit of a deviation when I consciously made a decision to not tackle some of the Santa Cruz & Felton layout tasks I'd planned for the year and to instead focus on the Achievement Program toward the second part of the year. It was a deliberate decision and I'm glad I made it because it reinforced a lot of model railroad skills that had laid dormant for many years. I'll craft a 2022 MRTL before the end of December so that we will hopefully be running trains in at least some semblance of an operating session toward the middle of next summer.

There's already a clear spot in our living room to setup the Christmas tree. Running the train under the tree is, for most of us, a way to remember back to times when we were much younger and perhaps a time when things seemed much simpler for all of us. This year will be different in our house because Mr. Boo will not be there to cautiously watch the train as it passes by him. We will be thinking of him and of the many Christmases he both supervised the setup and the running of the trains as they made their way 'round and 'round the tree.

Barbara & I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season filled with awesome memories and look forward to seeing everyone in 2022!

## NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

The meeting was called to order in the 600 Room at 600 North Hurstbourne Parkway at 2:00 PM on Saturday November 20, 2021. This was a Hybrid meeting with members attending in person in the 600 Room, or remotely using the Zoom conference platform. All officers were present. Attendance was 24, with 10 attending in person, and 14 attending on Zoom.

Fred Soward reported that we have one new member, Gary Dean. Fred recognized one visitor, Dave Ackmann, who presented the program "Static Grass for Scenery". See page 2 for the contest report, photos of the winners are on page 3. Mike Berry reported that 32 are signed up for the Division 8 Christmas Party to date. (*continued on page 2*)

## TIME TABLE

**Dec 4, Sat, 6PM, Div 8 Christmas Party, Crowne Plaza.**

**Dec 11, Sat, 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Bull Session on Zoom.**

**Dec 11&18, Sat, K&I Open house (see page 4 for details).**

**Jan 8, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Gathering on Zoom.**

**Jan 15, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting 600 Room and Zoom.**

**Feb 12, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Gathering.**

**Feb 19, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting 600 Room and Zoom.**

**Mar 12, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Virtual Bull Session.**

**Mar 19, Sat 10AM-3PM Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Saffin Center.**

## NOVEMBER 2021 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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
November	Displays (no size limit)

For November 2021, displays were solicited for the Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest, including modules and T-Trak, with no size limit. Three displays were entered, with Rick Geerts placing third for his "Other Side of the Tracks" display, Ed Brennan placing second for his diorama, and Bob Frankrone placing first for his switching module. Congratulations to our three display modelers!

The point totals now stand at: Rick Geerts with 11, Bob Frankrone and Kevin Jones with 9 each, Ed Brennan, Craig Hatter, Steve Lasher and Russ Weis with 6 each, Ron Ellison with 5, and Eric Waggoner with 3.

For December, we will take a holiday break with no contest. In January, the contest will be for freight cars. To enter the January Contest, email 1 to 3 photos in JPG format only along with the Contest Entry Form as a PDF file to [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com). Contest dates will also be listed in the Groups.io Calendar. And as always if you have questions, comments, or need help, email [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com) (See page 3 this issue for contest photos.).

### NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT *(continued from page 1)*

Train Show Chairman Ron Ellison reported on the November 13 Division 8 Train Show. Ron said this was one of the most successful shows we have had. Paid attendance was 451. He thanked Bob Johnson, KSONS, and the others who set up layouts and volunteers who helped with the show. Ron said the next show is March 19, 2022, same location.

Following a short break, David Ackmann with the Gateway Division (St. Louis), presented "Creating Billboards from Styrene". Using a video and real-time comments, David showed the techniques and materials he uses to scratch build billboards for his layout, followed by opportunity for questions and answers. *(continued on column 2 this page)*



### NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

No meeting in December. The Division Christmas Party is Saturday December 4, 2021 at the Airport Crowne Plaza, 830 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209. We will gather at 5 PM and dine at 6PM. The 2021 Silver Spike Award will be presented following the dinner. Our next meeting will be January 15, 2022.

### NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT *(continued from column 1)*

The minutes for the November meeting are posted on the Division Web Site. Go to the members pages. You can also view the meeting on the Division 8 YouTube Channel.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Chairman

NMRA reported 124 members, but the actual count is 125. I was dropped from their list -- this will be corrected. There was one Re-rail, Brian Weir. Renewing: William Arnold, Garry Bennett, Ralph Bracewell, Don Copley, Bruce DeMaeyer, Ellis Stephen, Karen Fowler, Henry Sanders, Charles Schaefer, James Schmidt, Lynn Schmidt, Robert Wartschlager, Herman Weir, Alexander Weir, and Lamont Williams. In addition, Fred Soward reported on his membership study at the November meeting: Don Fowler has 25 years, Mike Berry 26 years, Daryl Arend and Bill Lynch each have 27 years. Bill Lynch is a life member.

### MEMBER WELFARE

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; Eric Waggoner-\$15; Fred & Barbara Soward-\$100; K & I Model Railroad Club-\$50; Kent Westphal-\$50; Mark Hedge-\$25.

If you wish to donate, email the amount to [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com) and we'll email you an invoice to pay online. Or call us at (502) 653-5371. *(continued on page 7)*

NOVEMBER CONTEST (DISPLAYS) photos by the entrants



**FIRST PLACE**

Bob Frankrone's switching modules. He built these two modules as a unit when he was a member of the K&I RR club many years ago. It was designed as a switching module so that it could be used a stand-alone layout.

It was last on display at the Galt House during the MCR 2017 Regional Convention and was set-up for operations for convention attendees. Because it is a travelling layout, it has limited scenery, and all the buildings are removable as is the trackwork located where the two modules are joined.

**SECOND PLACE**

Diorama by Ed Brennan MMR®. Ed originally built it as a stand-alone 24" x 28" module diorama. It is now incorporated in his home layout.

On the high line is an L&N E-6 #750 (Broadway Limited Imports), below on the bridge is an L&N Little Woody caboose (Wright Track/L&N Historical Society) punctuating a manifest freight of PFE reefers below.

Some of the materials and kits used: The bridge is a Walthers truss bridge (2-track modified to single-track) with guard rails added, Micro-Engineering steel piers and girder sections weathered with rust and dark gray pastels. The trees are by Bob Kuchler MMR®



**THIRD PLACE**

Rick Geerts' module: The "Other Side of the Tracks".

This is a 4' x 4' self-standing module which in the future will be attached as part of his layout.

There are 4 kits used: The drive-in is a Walthers kit. The drive-In sign is by Miller Engineering. The Strip Club is a Downtown Deco DD1035 Kitty Korner kit with Miller Engineering lights installed. The tavern is also a Downtown Deco DD1040 Trackside Tavern kit with a Miniatures Lighting beer light. The abandoned house is a Suydam kit with a scratch-built barn. The cars and trucks are from Walthers, Kibri, and Busch with Evan Designs flashing lights.

## BUILDING THE NEW K&I CLUB WORLD HEADQUARTERS

By Kent Westphal and Team



I was at the new K & I World Headquarters early last year (just before COVID lockdown) with a group of members. We were setting up our primary layout and someone said “we are just a group of guys that like to run trains.” Made me think... since we lost our clubhouse in Buckner, I rarely get to run trains. Seems like I do everything but.

In January 2017 we were notified that we had to vacate the old Buckner Firehouse in two weeks. We scrambled to find a storage option (settled on renting two PODS). We tore down the layout, and packed our stuff. We built racks in the PODS for the modules and stuffed all we could into them. The leftover stuff was stored at members’ homes.

In the middle of this, we discovered that the “environmentally controlled” location for our PODS wasn’t as we’d thought. So, to save money, we moved to a different storage location. We rented a truck and built shelves in it. Loaded up and moved, then unloaded the truck and removed the shelves. We had to rebuild shelves in the new storage and pack it all in as best we could.

We were comfortable in Buckner and had casually been looking for a new location. But now, we were homeless and desperate to find a new place. Anytime we were out driving, we were looking for an empty place that might be suitable. But no one wanted to rent us an affordable space.

Finally, on a lead, Stan White and I went to a VAP (Vacant and Abandoned Property) seminar. Did you know there are over 6,000 vacated properties in the Louisville area? They auction them off to qualified investors, and, in some cases, sell them for a dollar. Who knew! Fascinating -- but I digress.

Anyway, at the seminar, we got a couple of leads that led us to “Three Winks” who owned several vacant locations. We



found one that would accommodate us, but the rent for commercial property is expensive. However, after some discussion, they offered low rent in trade for some “sweat equity”. And, after negotiation of a 38-page lease, we had a new home at 2621 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Louisville near to the University of Louisville. It was only a concrete shell so here’s where the “sweat equity” comes in. We had to insulate the ceiling, sweep the floor, repair the gas heater and get it certified, build an ADA compliant restroom with a water heater, sweep the floor, insulate the walls, install steel studs and partial walls, run conduit and electric lights, acquire and hang lights and fans - oh, and sweep the floors. We had to make sure everything was to code including the EXIT sign, fire extinguisher, etc.

The place looked great thanks to Mike Berry, the lead for this project, and the skilled (and unskilled)



volunteers that made this happen. What a great group of guys! (continued on page 5)

K&I (continued from page 4)



Now, we could bring in our layouts. Again, we rented a truck. We took down, packed up and moved the traveling layout. Then we packed up our primary layout stuff from storage and moved it. The traveling layout was set up, and we started unboxing the primary layout stuff and try to figure out where it would fit.

This place wasn't as big as the firehouse so we had to make some difficult compromises and come up with a new layout design using our existing modules and scenery as best we could. Wish we could have built all new but we just didn't have the funds.

Then, the COVID lockdown happened. Our work sessions stopped, but dedicated members persisted, coming in, one or two at a time, to work on this or that and keep progress going. These very diligent, skilled members got the layouts up and running and the scenery

coming together. In spite of COVID, things started looking great.

We couldn't get together in person during the lockdown so we sent out newsletters, figured out Zoom, and started having virtual meetings and Zoom get-togethers. We kept the K & I business going virtually.

Then, as members got vaccinated, we started getting together again with small work sessions to work on this and that, and meeting in small groups to run trains.

Now, we are having weekly, face-to-face get togethers, work sessions, and talking about having our business meetings face-to-face at the new K & I World Headquarters. It's been a long time coming, but we are back. Still have some tracks to lay and scenery to install but we are running trains and the camaraderie is great.



Model Railroading - the world's greatest hobby. I think I'll go run trains. No, wait... I need to help plan an open house. Hope to see you there. ([Click here](#) for more pictures.)

JOIN us at the

## K & I Model Railroad Club

### *Goin' Home for Christmas*

Saturday December 11, 2021  
and  
Saturday December 18, 2021  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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Our 2 HO Layouts will be open to the Public  
for the First Time at our New Location  
PLUS our Thomas & Friends Layout



2621 S 4th Street  
Louisville, KY 40208  
**ADMISSION is FREE**  
(near 4th and Winkler)

CIRROPS 2021

By Fred Soward



Russ Weis running a train on Tom Cain's Eastern Illinois Santa Fe

Division 8 members Rob Cooper, Ron Ellison, Russ Weis, and I attended the Central Indiana Railroad Operations (CIRROPS) 2021 event in October 2021. Because of scheduling, we were fortunate to work two layouts into our visit.

The first layout we visited was Tom Cain's HO scale Eastern Illinois Santa Fe near Indianapolis. If the photos look familiar, that's because Tom presented a signaling clinic to us in September 2019. It took us four hours to run through an entire day of ops on the layout. The layout ran flawlessly and the signals added an extra layer of play to the visit.



Russ Weiss and Ron Ellison on the New Unionville & Western

An early Sunday morning departure from Louisville had us walking through the yard at Pete Pedigo's 1/8 scale New Unionville & Western outdoor layout by 8:30 AM.

We were very happy we'd dressed in layers. By the time we started running trains the fog had started lifting and when we finished at 3:15 PM, we were down to T-shirts. Although none of us took the engineer role for any of the trains, we performed duties as conductor and switchman for several trains. I thought I was going to take a lot of pictures and videos as we worked our way across the 1.8 mile long mainline, but keeping in contact with the towers and dispatchers, keeping my engineer apprised of the situation ahead and behind, and tracking our progress over the railroad kept me so busy I took very few photos or videos.

FALL TRAIN SHOW photos by Bob Dawson and Bob Kuchler



Above and right: After a hiatus of a year and a half, the Division 8 Train Show returned on November 13, 2021. This was one our best attended show in years, with 451 paid attendances. Top left: Some of the crowd during the show. Top Right. Russ Weiss and Ruth Lynch at the admittance table. Some of the door prizes can be seen on the adjoining table. Right: The Free-Mo layout, one of the layouts at the show. Thanks to the Free-Mo group, Bob Johnson, T-Track and others who provided layouts. Thanks also to Roundhouse Electric Trains, Scale Reproductions, and Division 8 members and friends who provided door prizes. See page 7 for additional news about the Train Show and Sale.

Layout photo by Bob Kuchler MMR®

**MEMBER WELFARE** (continued from page 2)

WILLIAM CHESTER EDWARDS III, 78, passed away on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Bill was a musician by trade. He was a member of Division 8 and the K&I Model Railroad. Bill was a regular fixture where ever the K&I traveling layout was set up. He is preceded in death by his wife Susan Hillerich, and his parents William and Lula Edwards.

Left to cherish his memory is his son Adam Edwards (Kyla Phillips), his granddaughter Meadow Juliana Edwards, brother Michael Edwards (Linda), sister Diane Bromwell. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Our condolences to his family.

A donation was made by the Member Welfare fund in Bill's memory to Gilda's Club X.

Our condolences to Rick Geerts', who lost two members of his family -- his grandson Conner, and his brother-in-law Steve Statler.

Former Division 8 member Horst Schlindwein passed away on October 23 from complications of a bad fall. He was 83 years old. Horst was a long-time dealer at the Division 8 Train Show & Sale, and at one time served as Division 8 Treasurer.

Karen Taylor, wife of former member Stephen Taylor, passed away in Madison, IN on October 4 after a long illness.

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM REPORT**

By Mark Norman, AP Chairman, Photo by Bob Dawson



Fred Soward received his Scenery Certificate of Achievement and Merit Award from AP Chairman Mark Norman.

Photo by Bob Dawson

As I write this, we are experiencing an Indian Summer. Halloween is behind us and already we are discussing the Thanksgiving menu. When you read this, the Division Christmas Party will be days away, and at the moment, I'm looking at the materials for the welcome desk for the train show. The idea is for the desk to be fun and capture the attention of the children and parents -- isn't that why we do this, to have fun? Last week I was meeting with a business associate and mentioned the Train Show. His face lit up like a Christmas tree -- the little boy inside of him wanted to see the trains! He has the information and was asking his brother to come with his family. The Achievement Program is part of that fun. Things are always more fun as you learn to do them better. **Breaking News:** Our Superintendent Fred Soward earned his Master Builder – Scenery award which was presented at the November meeting. Nice modelling Fred! Fred is busy working on his 7<sup>th</sup> award. At the train show, several people made mention of upcoming evaluations needed. Let's have some more fun!

**31st YEAR OF THE TRAIN SHOW & SALE**

By Ron Ellison, Division 8 Train Show and Sale Chairman

You may have noticed that for the 1st time in a few months, there's no Train Show flyer in *The Pie Card*. We're taking a month off before we start promoting the Spring 2022 Show - our 32nd year of the Division 8 Train Show & Sale. We'll be back in January with the Spring Show flyer and asking for your help.

We were able to market the Train Show was held continuously for 30 years. But there was an interruption to that streak - Covid-19. No shows in 2020 and only last month's Fall Show in 2021.

But we came back with a vengeance and had our highest attendance ever and our most profitable show ever. That result is thanks to a bunch of Division 8 members and some member wives who donated their time to make the Show a success. I want to thank those folks again here in *The Pie Card*. Many, many thanks for helping to share the Model Railroading Hobby with the public. Yes we have the show to raise funds to operate Division 8. But it's also to share the joy we all feel for model railroading. Thanks to ALL the Train Show Staff!

One last thing before I sign off - If you're thinking about renting a table for the Spring Show, don't think too long. We've already sold half the available tables. You can download the dealer table reservation form here - <http://div8-mcr-nmra.org/site/html/trainshow.html>

Your check or cash to Mark Hedge, along with a completed reservation form, will reserve your table.

**OFFICERS**

Superintendent:	Fred Soward	502-499-0770
Asst. Supt:	Eric Waggoner	502-244-6628
Clerk:	Bob Dawson	502-368-2607
Treasurer:	Mike Berry	502-245-1337

**TRUSTEES**

Tom Guentner	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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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
T-Trak	Bruce DeMaeyer	502-618-0248
Webmaster	Tom Guentner	502-363-3113

**MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS**

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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](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com)

**THE PIE CARD**

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**Indy Junction  
2022**  
 MWR NCR MCR  
 RPM Conference

**MAY 18-22, 2022**

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**EARLY  
BIRD  
REGISTRATION  
ENDS  
DEC 31<sup>ST</sup>**

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IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

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Is your Division 8 outfit ready for face to face meetings? Do you have a fleece for the winter ahead? A hat, shirt or fleece will make you look your best even if you're ZOOMing! All our merch is DELUX and priced right. Place an order TODAY for Division 8 Company Store merch!

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