

# The Pie Card

NMRA

Division 8

MID CENTRAL  
REGION

Volume 60, March 2026, Number 3

Division 8, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ron Ellison

Have you visited the ALL NEW DIVISION 8 WEBSITE? You should go take a look if you haven't been there yet. It's new and things are not in the same place. We know – that's crazy. You need to acquaint yourself with what's there. So, you know where to go when you need something. We have a website so when you can't sleep and wake up at 4 AM, you can look at the website instead of texting or emailing a fellow Division 8 member. There's a lot of information there!

The Media Committee put a lot of thought into how the new website should look and where things should be. It all made sense to the Committee. And we can thank Fred Soward and Rob Toler for bringing it all to life. Just because they made it look easy doesn't mean it was. If you can't find something or see something wrong, email us, [division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com](mailto:division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com). We'll answer your questions or fix something that's wrong.

One of the things on the new website are copies of THE PIE CARD going back as far as 2008. There are actually some copies from 2006 and 2007, but they need some editing. If you get from January 2026 to December 2008, let us know and we'll step up the pace on getting more up on the website. It's interesting reading. You should take a look. But be prepared. There are some photos. Some of us were once better looking.

If you like to read *The Pie Card*, you may be interested in reading newsletters from some of the other Divisions in the Mid-Central Region. You may have friends to catch up with who you forgot you had. Take a look on the new website here – [INFORMATION](#) and [LINKS](#). In the same location are other interesting links including to the websites of the other Divisions in the Region.

The spring Division 8 Train Show & Sale is always on the third weekend in March. This year that's Saturday, March 21, 2026. NMRA members with current membership card in hand can enter the Show one hour early at 9:00 AM. Some may say, "I don't know where my membership card is?" We have a solution for you. Volunteer to help our dealers unload at 7:00 AM. There's plenty of parking and you'll already be there when we open to NMRA members at 9:00 AM. Email us or text us at (502) 653-5371, "sign me up to help." But please include your name just to make it easy for us. You can buy yourself breakfast starting at 8:00 AM at the Kitchen Window.

Not able to volunteer but would still like to attend the Show? [BUY YOUR TRAIN SHOW & SALE ADVANCE TICKET TODAY](#). Can't make it to the Show? Consider buying an advance ticket anyway. The Train Show & Sale is a fund raiser. It's just \$6.00 either way.

Do you ever think about what it takes to put on a Train Show & Sale? Once the Show is over, some clean-up of the venue is required. If you can help with that, stick around until 3:00 PM when the Show is over and give us a hand. It only takes minutes when we have some members to help. And we'll thank you profusely for being a helpful person.

We hope to see YOU at the Train Show & Sale Saturday March 21, 2026!

## TIME TABLE

**Mar 7**, Division 7 Flea Market & Trade Show

**Mar 14**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**Mar 21, Sat 10AM-3PM, Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Safin Center, Holy Family Parish.**

**Apr 18**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**May 9**, Sat, LaGrange, KY Railfest

**May 16**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**Jun 4-7**, Mid Central Region Convention, Dayton, OH.

**Jun 20**, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

**July 18**, Sat, Div 8 Picnic, details TBA.

## MARCH 2026 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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

For February, Division 8's Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest topic was non-steam motive power. There were nine entries with an emphasis on dressing up old models into show pieces.

Honorable mention goes to Ed Brennan MMR® for KCS SD40-2, Ethan Davis for ex-CNW UP GP15-1, Bob Frankrone for Soo Line switcher, Randy Griggs for ERTL GP35 loco conversion, and Craig Hatter for PC GP30 2189.

There was a tie for third place between Steve Lasher for SP's Finest and Russ Weis for tri-powered box cab. Second place goes to Fred Soward MMR® for patched SP SD40-2 8708. First place goes to Rudy Licandro for Hudson Valley RDC 1972. Congratulations to each of our modelers, including two for their first contest entries, with these great efforts!

The revised point totals are now: Bob Frankrone with 18, Ed Brennan with 17, Steve Lasher with 12, Craig Hatter with 11, Randy Griggs with 10, Russ Weis with 7, Al Goodman, Scott Griggs, John Helton, and Rudy Licandro with 4 each, Bob Kuchler and Fred Soward with 3 each, Chris Broughton and John Gillespie with 2 each, and Scott Britt, Ethan Davis, and Eric Waggoner with 1 each.

The March Contest is **STRUCTURES**

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

- February 28th - First day to submit entries
- March 7th - Last day to submit entries
- March 12th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- March 12th & 13th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 13<sup>th</sup>
- March 14th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>
- April 4th - First day to submit April contest entries **PASSENGER CARS**

(continued to column 2)



## MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

The March Division 8 meeting is 2 PM **Saturday March 14, 2026 (this is the SECOND Saturday)**, at the Jeffersontown Library, 10635 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299. Craig Hatter is presenting "Trees for the Forest." 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.

## CONTEST (continued from column 1)

If you need more information, go here - <https://div8-mcr-nmra.org/2463-2>.

To enter the March Contest, use the **Contest Entry Form** on the Division 8 website

here → [Contest](#) and just follow the simple instructions included in the form.

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)

We will publish the Contest timeline dates each month in **The Pie Card**.

See contest photos beginning on page 3.

## MEMBER WELFARE

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

I am happy to report that there were no deaths or hospitalizations reported for the month of February.

The Member Welfare fund stands at \$100 from an anonymous donor.

As always, please keep us posted on any issues anyone might hear.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Relations Chairman

As of the last report received from the Mid Central Region, we have 154 active members. We had three renewals (Mike Berry, Dan Huneke, Lauren Theobald); Six expired members (Jay Stottman, Myron Coldiron, Tyler Dean, Joseph Purvis, Charles Trusty, Mark Clark). One new Member (Mary Guenther)



**FIRST PLACE**

Left: Rudy Licandro's HO Hudson Valley RDC 1972  
Rudy kit-bashed this from an Athearn Railcar he purchased at the Div. 8 Fall Train Show. The RDC didn't have windows and was unpowered. He modified the frame to accept NWSL Stanton Drive trucks, one powered and one unpowered. Windows were installed using Woodland Scenics Light Diffusing Window Film. The car is equipped with an ESU LokSound 5 decoder obtained from Rapido with their specific RDC sound file installed. I used Nix Trainz Decoder Buddy V1B to install the decoder and lighting. He painted it in Long Island Railroad Colors for his fictional Hudson Valley Railroad.

**SECOND PLACE**

Right: Fred Soward's HO Patched SP 8708 SD40-2

SP8708 represents a patched SD40-2 that began life as a UP locomotive. The model is a Scale Trains Operator model. SP decals are from a Southern Pacific SD40 Microscale set of decals. Patch-out decals are from a second set of Microscale decals. Pan Pastels and acrylic paint washes were used for weathering, following prototype photos of similar SP locomotives.



TWO ENTRIES TIED FOR THIRD PLACE.



Left: Steve Lasher's HO "SP's Finest."

SP 9086 is a Rail Power Products shell and frame with many upgrades, including a new cab and nose. It received a Details Associates SP light package along with many other parts to bring it up to SP standards. Steve custom bent the handrails from 0.015" piano wire for sturdiness. The chassis is a RPP frame with Athearn trucks. Drive line components are powered by a Mashima motor. It was finished with Floquil colors, Microscale decals, and weathered with chalks and powders

Right: Russ Weis' HO "Tri-powered Box Cab."



**HONORABLE MENTION**

Left: Craig Hatter's HO "Penn Central GP30 2189."



Left: Bob Frankrone's HO "Soo Line Switcher."

Right: Ed Brennan's HO "Kansas City Southern SD40-2."



Left: Ethan Davis's HO "GP15-1 Ex-CNW Union Pacific."

Right: Randy Griggs' S-Scale "ERTL GP35 Locomotive Conversion."



**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS** *Photos by Barbara Soward*

Achievement Program chairman Mark Norman MMR® made two presentations at the February meeting.



Left: Scott Griggs earned a Merit Award for his scratchbuilt S Scale 4-12-2 Locomotive. His dad, Randy Griggs (right), received his award for him.

Right:

Mark presented David Mertz with his Golden Spike Award.



**PHOTO FROM THE MEETING** *Photo by Barbara Soward*



**A VISIT BY MARK JUETT MMR®**

*Photos by Fred Soward MMR®*

Some of you may be familiar with the name Mark Juett MMR®. Mark hosts the monthly “The Pulse of DCC” articles in the *NMRA Magazine*. Mark was in the area visiting family over the holidays and took the opportunity to visit some local layouts. Fred Soward arranged the visits and escorted him. The following are a few photos from his visit.



Left:  
Mark at Rick Maloney’s MMR®



Right: With Chris Broughton MMR®



Left:  
With Bob Kuchler MMR®

Right:

Ron Ellison pointing out a feature on the K&I Model Railroad Club Layout.

Fred reports that Mark is looking forward to a return visit to the area this year, hoping to hop onto an operating session or two while he's here.



**FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

*By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent*

February. Well, that was quick! I hardly noticed the calendar turn from January and March is already here. As part of the NMRA's Vision 2035 initiative, I spent several days in the Chattanooga, TN, area with NMRA Eastern District Director John Doehring. Our mission was to visit NMRA HQ in Soddy Daisy to better understand how the HQ staff functions and what they do on a day-to-day, monthly, and annual basis. We're looking for ways to improve operational efficiency through streamlining, optimization, automation, and lean management processes.

On the way home from our visit to NMRA HQ, I took a detour to Cleveland, TN, where I was fortunate to receive a personal tour of the ScaleTrains and Virtual Railfan offices with Shane Wilson. During the visit, Shane and I also talked about all the ways they are supporting the 2026 NMRA National Convention in and around Chattanooga, TN, with tours, train rides, and presentations. Their offices will be open at designated times for you to visit during the convention. Pelle Soeberg's HO scale Daneburg Subdivision layout, shipped from Denmark to Utah by Exactrail in 2017, and then shipped to Tennessee when ScaleTrains purchased Exactrail in 2023, is also on display. If you were impressed by photos of the layout, you'll be in awe when you see it in person.

The only thing I accomplished on the layout in our basement last month was removing a crossover from the yard. Well, not the actual crossover, but the template for where the crossover was planned. Every day I walk past Watsonville Junction Yard and every day I pause to think about how the yard will work. On one of those days, I considered whether one of the crossovers was essential. Poof! It was gone the next morning.

Most of the rest of my month was occupied by work on NMRA National tasks, working with Rob Toler on tweaking the new Division 8 website, and future trip planning (Primarily Conventions, Train Shows, and Operating Sessions) between March and October.

I know many of you were working on projects this month. How about sharing your work by posting photos and descriptions in the Division 8 Groups.io email group? Or sending that information to Bob Dawson for inclusion in a future edition of The Pie Card? Or maybe even putting a presentation together to share at a Division 8 meeting? We'd all love to see what you're working on!

**FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT**

*By Rick Maloney MMR® Division 8 Clerk*

The Division 8 Membership Meeting was held at the Jeffersontown branch of the Louisville Free Public Library on February 21, 2026. This was a hybrid meeting with 28 members, including 1 spouse present, and 8 members on Zoom plus 1 guest. Ron Ellison welcomed Andy Blenko, an NMRA member from the Keystone Division of the MCR, as our guest presenter.

Superintendent Ron Ellison called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and welcomed the members. We were pleased to see Rick Tipton join us on Zoom from his home after a recent hospital stay. Mike Berry Was happy to report that he had nothing new to report on the Welfare of the members. He asked us to report any issues to members, so we can send them a card.

Mark Norman - presented David Mertz with a Golden Spike Award. Mark also presented Scott Griggs' Merit Award for his Scratch built S Scale 4-12-2 Locomotive to his dad, Randy Griggs, who received it on Scott's behalf.

Barry Christensen gave the results of the monthly model contest, check out the photos elsewhere in this issue. Next month's contest is Structures.

Fred Soward MMR® presented the Back to Basics segment, "Narrow Your Focus to Stretch Your Modeling Dollars."

Russ Weis thanked Andy Blenko for joining us today on Zoom, and for giving a presentation on "Railroads of The Panama Canal". Craig Hatter will give his presentation "Trees Through the Forrest" at our March 14, 2026, meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM after the presentation.

**WHERE ARE ALL THE MODELS?**

*By Bob Frankrone*

Many years ago, Division Eight meetings were held on Thursday evenings (the third Thursday of each month), and they were commonly hosted by a member at their home. As a new NMRA member, that presented a great opportunity for me to visit various home layouts, and to see firsthand what was possible in the world of model railroad construction. I remember seeing some really nice layouts, which ultimately inspired me to build my railroad empire.

For the months when no one volunteered to host a meeting at their home (and there were quite a few of them in a given year), the Division would conduct its meetings wherever they could find a suitable site. Many times, we would meet at the Southeast Government Center on Outer Loop, and for a long time the Division had an agreement with TARC to meet at their headquarters in the old Union Station building at Tenth and Broadway. While these places were very nice venues to host meetings, they were “sterile” environments in terms of model railroading.

In what might have been the genesis of the Division Eight monthly contest (I can’t say for sure as it was before I became a member), someone suggested that members bring models to the meetings that were held at those sterile sites. This provided something that was model railroad related for members to see and discuss in the absence of a home layout. What a great idea!

Fast forward to present day. Division Eight now meets regularly at the Jeffersontown Library, which is a great venue, but a sterile one in terms of model railroading. There is always a table set up for members to display any models they may bring. In January of this year, we had a packed house at our meeting, but there were only two models on display. Where are all the models?

We have many modelers in Division Eight, so why not display your work? Display means just that...display. Display models are neither judged nor voted on. They are merely for the enjoyment and benefit of our members. I believe our members enjoy seeing models at meetings (I certainly do), and there is always something to be learned when seeing someone else’s work and discussing it with them. Let’s put the ‘model’ back into model railroading, and, as someone told me many years ago, don’t just belong...participate!

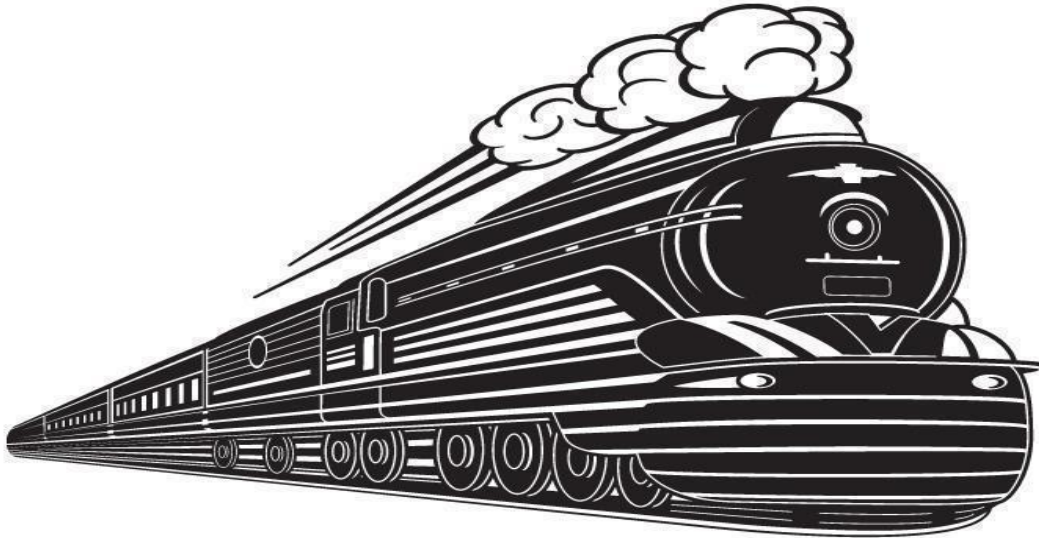


Left:  
The February “Show and Tell”  
only had models from three  
members.

*Photo by Barbara Soward*

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ADVANCE TICKETS: <https://tinyurl.com/Spring2026TrainShow>

ADVANCE TICKETS



DEALER INFORMATION



WEBSITE



# Whistle Stop Dayton MID-CENTRAL REGION CONVENTION



June 4 - 7, 2026  
DAYTON, OHIO



**Layout Tours and Op Sessions  
Model Contest,/Celebration, Displays,  
Clinics, Self-Guided Tours, Consignment Sales & Banquet**



**Clinics Morning, Afternoon and Evening**  
-Topics include: Prototype and Models that Followed,  
Growing Up with the V & O plus Dayton & Troy Electric Railroad

**Model Contests/Celebration:**  
Models Judged by AP

**Company Store:** Will be offering Convention Cars

**Self-Guided Local Attractions:**

Rail Tours, Non-rail Activities, including area Museums and Historical sites

**Layout Tours & OP Sessions:** Self Guided Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**Evening Displays:** T-Trak

**Consignment Sales:** Sell your excess items



**Banquet Speake:** Otto M. Vondrak  
**Clinic Topic**  
The Impact of Allen McClelland's  
Virginia & Ohio  
**Banquet Topic:**  
90 Years of the RMC History



**For More Information and Reservations**

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**Host Hotel - Marriott University of Dayton**



# KENTUCKY RAILWAY MUSEUM

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[The Depot Railroad Museum](#)

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|-----------------|--------------|
| Superintendent: | Ron Ellison  |
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| Clerk:          | Rick Maloney |
| Treasurer:      | Mike Berry   |

**TRUSTEES**

Stan White  
Darcy Elliott  
Russ Weis

**COMMITTEE DIRECTORS**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Achievement Program | Mark Norman       |
| Contests            | Barry Christensen |
| Tool Room Manager   | Mike Berry        |
| Member Relations    | Stan White        |
| Member Welfare      | Mike Berry        |
| Media               | Ron Ellison       |
| Meetings & Programs | Russ Weis         |
| Pie Card            | Bob Dawson        |
| Train Show and Sale | Ron Ellison       |
| T-Trak              | Bruce DeMaeyer    |
| Webmaster           | Rob Toler         |

**MID CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| President:      | Jerry Doyle    |
| Vice-president: | Frank Trocchia |
| Secretary:      | Bruce DeMaeyer |
| Treasurer:      | Barbara Soward |

To contact a Division 8 board member or committee director call or text (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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Eastwood, KY 40018-0189  
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Publisher: Ron Ellison

The Pie Card is published twelve times a year by Division 8 of the National Model Railroad Association, Mid Central Region.

Please address all correspondence to Bob Dawson, Editor, 7305 Ticonderoga Dr., Louisville, KY 40214, or email: [dawsobl@aol.com](mailto:dawsobl@aol.com).

Deadline for submission of articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. The Pie Card goes to press by the first of each month. Photos are preferred to be a JPEG format. Documents should be submitted as a Word or similar format. No PDF's please.

**DIVISION 8 COMPANY STORE  
IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED**

The Company Store is closed. Not only are we on holiday but if you have not heard, there is a new NMRA logo. The Division 8 logo will also be changing to be co-branded with the NMRA logo. The Company Store is currently working with our vendor to develop the new designs. And there will be some new items along with all the current items with the NEW logo. As soon as new items are available, we will update the Company Store link and let you know.