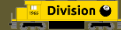


The Pie Card

Volume 60, August 2026, Number 8

Division 8, Mid Central Region, National Model Railroad Association



MID CENTRAL
REGION



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Darcy Elliott

Mission: Possible

If you've ever stood in the grocery aisle staring at a loaf of "Enriched Bread," you've probably wondered what exactly do they enrich it with. Vitamins? Minerals? A

sprinkle of mystery nutrients that sound like they were invented by a Federation science officer? Riboflavin always seems to show up—like it's the overachiever of the B-vitamin family, proudly announcing, "I'm here to make your toast better."

Cereal, pasta, even crackers get the same treatment—everything is "enriched" these days, as if your pantry items are attending night classes to improve themselves. But while enriched bread might help your breakfast, we don't enrich our model railroading experience with riboflavin. You can dump all the B-vitamins you want on your layout; nothing's going to weather a boxcar or wire a turnout for you. Our hobby rises for a completely different reason: the skills, creativity, and shared knowledge we pass around as a community.

As we move into August, I want to highlight a theme that sits at the heart of both the NMRA's mission and the spirit of Division 8: enrichment through education. Our hobby thrives when we learn from one another, share our skills, and create opportunities for every member—new or experienced—to grow in confidence and creativity.

Model railroading is one of the most wonderfully diverse hobbies out there. It blends artistry, carpentry, electronics, operations, research, digital tools, and a healthy dose of imagination. No single person masters all of it, and that's exactly why enrichment matters. The strength of our Division comes from the wide range of skills our members bring to the table. Every meeting, layout tour, and casual conversation is a chance for someone to discover a new technique or gain insight into a part of the hobby they haven't explored yet.

One of the things I enjoy most is seeing how these skills come to life. A five-minute weathering tip, a soldering demonstration, a discussion about prototype operations, or a behind-the-scenes look at how someone plans a scene—these moments spark inspiration. They help newer members feel welcome, and they give long-time modelers fresh ideas to try. Enrichment doesn't have to be a formal clinic; sometimes the most meaningful learning happens in the small exchanges between members.

This year, I want us to lean even more into creating those opportunities. We're exploring ways to expand our educational offerings. These don't need to be complicated; they just need to be shared. If you have a skill you've developed—scenery, DCC, photography, operations, scratch building, research, or anything else—we'd love to help you share it. If there's something you've been wanting to learn, let us know. Your curiosity helps guide what we offer.

Enrichment is not just about teaching; it's about connection. When we share what we know, we strengthen the Division as a whole. We build confidence, encourage creativity, and help each other enjoy the hobby more fully. That sense of community is what keeps Division 8 vibrant and welcoming.

TIME TABLE

Aug 15, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Sep 1-5, Narrow Gauge Convention, Minneapolis, MN.

Sep 19, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Sep 26, Sat 10AM Southern Indiana Train Show and Swap Meet. (see flyer this issue for details)

Oct 10-11, Division 7 Train & Trade Show, Lakota West H.S., West Chester, OH.

Oct 17, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Nov 14, Sat 10AM-3PM, Div 8 Train Show and Sale, Safin Center, Holy Family Parish.

Nov 21, Sat 2PM, Div 8 Hybrid meeting, Jeffersontown Library and Zoom.

Dec 6, Sun 5PM, Div 8 Christmas Party Kingfish, River Road, Louisville.

For the complete Time Table, find it online here - [Division 8 Timetable](#)

(continued to next page)

AUGUST 2026 CHARLIE KEELING HYBRID MODEL CONTEST

By Barry Christensen, Contest Chairman

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
March	Structures
April	Passenger cars
May	Cabooses
June	Open loads
July	NO CONTEST

The first, second and third place winners for the 2025-2026 Charlie Keeling Hybrid Model Contest year were announced at the Division 8 picnic on Saturday, July 18th, held at the Depot Museum in Salem, IN. Third place went to Bob Frankrone with 22 points for the year. Bob entered all 12 categories and won three firsts. Second place went to Steve Lasher with 24 points for the year. Steve entered 9 categories, winning two firsts and three seconds. First place went to Ed Brennan MMR in absentia with 28 points for the year. Ed entered 11 categories and won three firsts. Our winners received contest certificates and Scale Reproductions gift cards awarded as prizes. Congratulations!

During the 2025-2026 model contest year we had 19 modelers participate with 82 total entries and 478 votes cast, a wonderful twenty percent increase in total entries. Final standings for the 2025-2026 contest year are as follows: Ed Brennan MMR with 28, Steve Lasher with 24, Bob Frankrone with 22, Craig Hatter with 16, Randy Griggs with 12, Bob Kuchler MMR and Russ Weis with 9 each, Rudy Licandro with 6, Al Goodman, Scott Griggs, John Helton, and David Mertz with 5 each, Eric Waggoner with 4, John Gillespie and Fred Soward MMR with 3 each, Chris Broughton MMR with 2, and Sean Britt, Ethan Davis, and Duke Green with 1 each.

The 2026-2027 model contest year begins with the August Contest for **M of W EQUIPMENT**



Left:
Charlie Keeling
photo.

(continued to column 2)



AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION

The August Division 8 meeting is 2 PM Saturday, August 15, 2026, at the Jeffersontown Library, 10635 Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40299. Mark Norman MMR® is presenting: "AI and The Model Railroader." 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.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

(continued from page 1)

As we head into the fall modeling season, I encourage each of you to think about one skill you could share—or one you'd like to pick up. Together, we can make this a time of discovery, collaboration, and growth. I'm excited to see what you all bring forward and how we continue enriching our Division, one idea at a time.

CONTEST (continued from column 1)

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

- August 1st - First day to submit entries
- August 8th - Last day to submit entries
- August 13th - Members will receive the Contest Ballot
- August 13th & 14th - Voting in the Contest Ballot ends @ 10:00 PM on the 14th
- August 15th - Winners announced at the meeting - 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- September 5th - First day to submit September contest entries **MODEL PHOTOS & PROTOTYPE PHOTOS** (2 separate contests)

For complete Contest information, visit the Division 8 website here <https://div8-mcr-nmra.org/2463-2/>

To enter the August Contest, click <https://forms.gle/BRbXBcXChiRihBhL8> and follow the simple instructions in the form. Entering the Contest has never been easier.

2026 ANNUAL PICNIC (photos by Barbara Soward unless indicated otherwise)

Forty Seven members, their families, friends and guests attended the annual Division 8 picnic on July 18. This year's picnic was held at The Depot Railroad Museum in Salem, Indiana.



Left: Superintendent Darcy Elliott welcomed everyone to the picnic.
photo by Bob Dawson

Right:
Division Board
members helped
serve the catered
meal.



Left: Member Al Goodman invited everyone to his house to see his layout after the meeting.
Photo by Bob Dawson

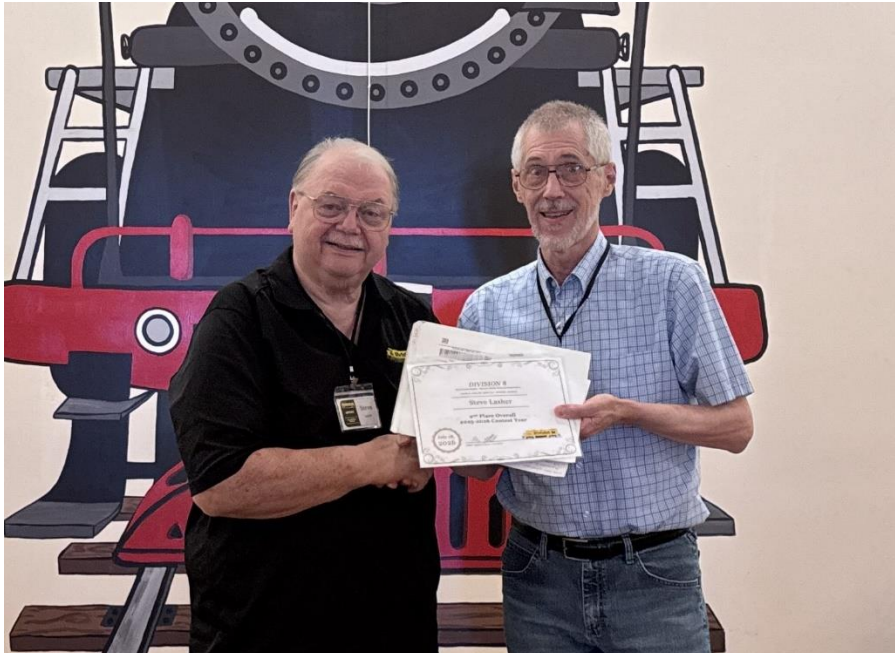
Right: Russ Weis introduced the speakers for the event; Mont Switzer (below), and Jim Craig (below right). Each presented a segment about the history of the former MONON Railroad.



*Photo at
right by Bob
Dawson*



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2025/2026 CHARLIE KEELING MODEL CONTEST AWARDS

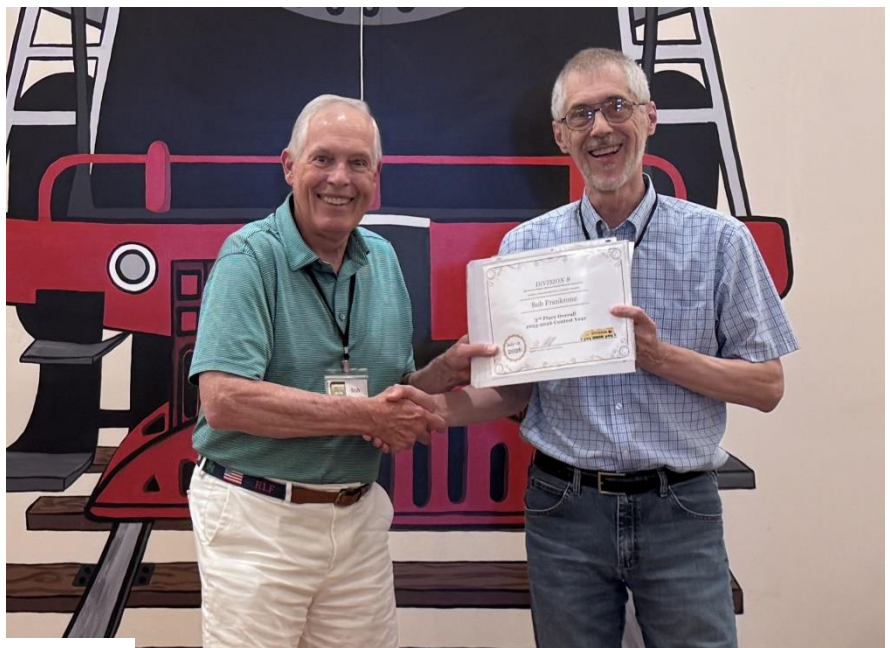
The model contest begins with the August Contest and concludes with the June Contest of the following Year.

First place was taken by Ed Brennan. As he was not present, he will receive his First Place Certificate and hobby shop gift card later.

Left: Steve Lasher (left) took second place in the contest. Contest Chairman Barry Christensen presenting Steve with his certificate and gift card.

Third Place was taken by Bob Frankrone.

Right: Contest Chairman Barry Christensen presenting Bob with his certificate and gift card.



Left:
As Darcy Elliott looked on, Barbara Soward "modeled" the Division 8 Tote Bag.
Each attendee was given a Tote Bag.

Photo by Bob Dawson

(Continued to next page.)

2026 ANNUAL PICNIC (continued from previous page)



Left:

Following the activities, the Depot Layout was open in the basement.

The layout depicts towns along the Monon in the Salem area. The layout was not running because the control systems are being upgraded.

Al Goodman in Pekin, IN, had his layout open after the picnic.

Right: Stan White and Mike Berry checking out the layout.



Left:

Host Al Goodman (left) with Barry Christensen.

SILVER SPIKE 2026 NOMINATIONS OPEN

It's time for the Silver Spike Nominations. On Monday August 3, 2026, eligible voting members will receive an email with instructions on how to make a nomination for the 2026 Silver Spike Award. Nominations will close 2 weeks later at the end of day on Sunday, August 16, 2026. A nomination can be made by replying to that email or by sending a separate email to division8.mcr.nmra@gmail.com

All nominations must be in an email to Division 8 and must clearly state the reason for nominating the person by listing their qualifications. And the email must state the member who is making the nomination. It will all be conveniently spelled out for you in the nomination email you will receive on August 3rd.

A Division 8 member can only receive the Silver Spike award once. To see a list of recipients, go here - [Silver Spike Award Recipients](#) There you'll see a long list of Division 8 members who, as it reads on the award plaque, *Holds the railroad together, symbolizes the strength of the road, and shines as one of the stars to guide us down the track.*

The minimum service criteria are:

Served as a Division 8 officer or trustee for at least one full term **OR** Served on Division 8 committee(s) such as train show, membership, picnic, etc., for at least four years, **OR** Volunteers on a regular basis to work at Division 8 functions such as train shows, meets, conventions, etc. for at least four years.

If there are qualified nominees, an election will take place by email ballot in September. In the event there is a sole nominee, the nominee may be given the Silver Spike award by a motion of the board of directors to have the Silver Spike awarded by acclamation.

If you have any questions, just reply when you receive nomination information on August 3rd.

The 2026 Silver Spike Award, if there is a qualified nominee, will be awarded at the Christmas Party on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

Division 8 Silver Spike Committee

FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

By Fred Soward MMR®, Division 8 Assistant Superintendent

July was a surprisingly quiet travel month for us. There was a LOT of other stuff going on including projects for Division 8, Mid Central Region, and at the national level of the NMRA.

Every screw on the completed fascia on the layout is now countersunk and most of the top edge of the installed fascia has been cut to conform to the general lay of the scenery that will be installed much later. All the Blue Point manual turnout controls have been set in place with push-pull rods to the edge of the fascia and we've run four mini operating sessions on the majority of the latest section of the layout. In those four operating sessions, there were two Division 8 members who'd never operated on the layout and another friend from our church who hadn't looked at model trains in more than 25 years.

We're making great progress on Rick Maloney's layout, ever expanding ops across his N scale model railroad empire. And, for third month in a row, the offer still stands – contact Bob Dawson and me to see what it might take to get your own layout hosting operating sessions. Doesn't have to be a big layout. I've operated on layouts with as few as four operators and had a blast doing so! We did have one person ask us last month and we've made our initial visit. We'll let you know how that goes sometime this fall.

Many thanks to Eric Waggoner for stepping up to take over a monthly slot for Monday Train Videos emails. I'll enjoy the occasional break, and I think y'all will enjoy the different perspective he will bring to the project. Be sure to thank Eric for doing that.

The best way to learn about model railroading is to do it. That includes building models, creating scenery, designing a layout, and running trains. It's amazing how many little things you'll learn by attending an operating session. I am about to start planning operating session road trips. If you want to join us, you need to let me know. Even if you've previously been on a road trip with me, I need to know you're still interested. Just send me an email to get your name on the list. And that includes if you want to attend an upcoming operating session on the Santa Cruz & Felton! It's up to you to step up and tell me you want to be included. Door's open – step on through.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Stan White Membership Relations Chairman

As of the last report received from Mid Central Region, we have 156 active members. We had three rerails: Pat Hardesty, Andrew Long, Steve Blanford. No Expirations. We also had 6 renewals: Ron Ellison, John & Lisa Helton, Lee Kirchhoff, Owen Miller, and Bobby Pumphrey.

MEMBER WELFARE

By Mike Berry Member Welfare Chairman

This month there were no reports of hospitalizations or deaths of members or their families. Good deal! Please remember to let us know if you hear of any one of our members with an issue.

ANSWERING THE CALL

By Barbara Soward



In the July 2026 Pie Card, our new superintendent Darcy Elliott talked about the importance of engagement and community, and how they contribute to the growth of the organization.

He posed four questions, and pointed out that they are not evaluations, but are some of the stories that give a bit of personal history about our model railroading journey and how we became involved in the NMRA. Most of you know my story, but for those of you who may not have heard it, I thought it might be fun to answer Darcy's questions and challenge others to do the same!

Before I answer the questions, you need a little background:

As a child, I really didn't have any interest in trains. My grandparents lived close to the railroad tracks that ran through Pikeville, KY, and I remember hearing the trains whenever we visited, particularly when we spent the night. Other than thinking they were loud, I couldn't have cared less about them. I have one sibling, a younger brother, so I did play in the dirt, and I do recall having my own toy truck, which was a horse van. We also had Lincoln Logs and some other red building bricks that were not Legos which we played with. I don't recall if the Lionel train set was a Christmas or birthday gift for my brother, but it ended up on what I now know is a pretty typical 4 X 8 sheet of plywood with an oval track around the perimeter. No scenery, no nothing except the track, and the grossly out of scale Lincoln Log and brick structures we created. Running around and around that oval track was the extent of my exposure to "toy trains" or what I have now come to know as "model railroading".

Fast forward to 2005—Fred & I had been married about a year, and he suggests that we should go to Cincinnati to a train show. WHAT?!?!? He had never really shared his "interest" in the hobby of model railroading with me. I agreed to go, wondering how in the world I was going to survive the day without being bored to tears. Was I ever wrong! It was an eye-opening experience to say the least—Fred tells the story that all he heard that day were gasps of wonder and "I had no idea!" Being a crafty person, I was most impressed with the detailed scenery (in sharp contrast to the 4 X 8 sheet of plywood I remembered from childhood). My interest was sparked, and I decided that I could probably build some of the structures and trees I was seeing. Some time after that train show, Fred & I decided that model railroading was a hobby that we could both enjoy together in retirement.

How were you introduced to the NMRA? Why did you join the NMRA?

Fast forward to 2010, the 75th Anniversary of the NMRA. Fred had never been an NMRA member because he was under the impression that it was an organization of elitist modelers and that it would not be a good fit for him. I'm not sure what changed his mind, but he became interested in attending the NMRA National Convention in Milwaukee commemorating the 75th anniversary, and the rest is history. We joined the NMRA and attended the convention. At that time, we had never been to a Division 8 meeting, nor did we know anything about them.

What do you like best about Division 8? What keeps you connected to the NMRA and this Division?

We went to our first Division 8 meeting and Fred recognized one of his former students from New Horizons Computer Learning Center—Tom Guenther. Both Tom and Fred said to each other "I didn't know you liked trains!" That was the first of many friendships that have developed through our involvement in Division 8, which is a vibrant and fun Division to

(continued to the next page)

ANSWERING THE CALL *(continued from previous page)*

be a part of. The meetings are a mix of business, pleasure, learning, and friendly competition. Meetings are inclusive (via Zoom) for those unable to attend in person. In addition to the structured “meetings”, the summer picnic and the Christmas party provide opportunities for family members who may not be involved in the hobby to mix and mingle with each other. The semi-annual Train Show and Sale that Division 8 hosts is another example of members working together as a team to execute one of the best and most popular events of its kind. Need help with your layout? Don’t know where to start? Division 8 has so many talented modelers who are willing and able to assist others in their modeling projects. I can’t count the times I’ve heard, “I’ve gotta guy” when a modeler is asked about a particular project or problem.

Because Regions are somewhat localized by definition, there are often activities within their boundaries that are easily accessible, such as train shows sponsored by other Divisions, operating sessions, and of course, the annual Region convention. Region conventions give you the opportunity to expand your network of modeling friendships to areas outside of your Division. Year after year at the Mid Central Region convention you will see lots of familiar faces from neighboring Divisions as well as new faces and perhaps the occasional attendee from a different Region.

Opportunities are further expanded at the national level. You can run for leadership positions if you have an interest in the “mechanics” of the organization and want to contribute. The Achievement Program has components at the Division, Region and national levels. The event most recognized at the national level is, of course, the convention and national train show. Here is another opportunity to meet model railroaders from other areas that you might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet. Fred and I have attended many national conventions since that first one in Milwaukee, and we continue to see old friends and meet new ones. In addition to the skill building clinics or fun operating sessions, it’s all about the connections you make with people!

Now that you’ve heard my story, let’s get to know each other better! I’m looking forward to reading your answers to Darcy’s questions!

TRACKSIDE WITH BARBARA SOWARD

Above: Barbara recently caught RJ Corman Railroad SD70M 2613 on the Matt Rose south siding.

Annual Train Show & Swap Meet @ First Presbyterian Church



Hosted by the Southern Indiana Railroad

Saturday September 26, 2026

Swap Meet: 10 am to 2 pm

Layouts: 10 am to 3 pm

Admission: 1-Can Donation for Food Bank

Location: First Presbyterian Church

222 Walnut Street @ Chestnut Street

Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130

For Information on tables for the swap meet contact:

Myron Coldiron 502-751-3530

Duke Green..... 812-267-0761

Ken Pettit..... 812-282-1658

Darcy Elliott..... 502-424-8682

Email: southernindianarailroad@gmail.com

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Salem, IN 47167

(812) 883-1884

CLICK FOR HOURS & MORE INFORMATION

[The Depot Railroad Museum](http://TheDepotRailroadMuseum.org)

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Asst. Supt:	Fred Soward
Clerk:	Rick Maloney
Treasurer:	Mike Berry

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Stan White
Russ Weis
Ron Ellison

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Contests	Barry Christensen
Tool Room Manager	Mike Berry
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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

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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

THE PIE CARD

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Publisher: Ron Ellison

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

Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th 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.

THE COMPANY STORE IS OPEN AGAIN

The Division 8 Company Store is open again. We have been closed while we updated our logo with the NEW NMRA brand identity. Is it time for you to have the new 2026 look?

The following items in black are available to order in all sizes

- Polo shirt
- T-shirt
- Fleece jacket
- Fleece vest
- Fleece ¼ zip pullover
- Hoodie pullover
- Hoodie jacket
- Sweatshirt
- Division 8 six panel Baseball hat (old logo only)

If you wish to place an order, email Division 8 Mid Central Region NMRA or text (502) 653-5371. We will email you an estimate to approve before ordering.

