



NMRA BULLETIN

An Official Publication of the National Model Railroad Association

FEBRUARY 2006

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Frank Hermanek Earns MMR 360

My first train was an American Flyer train set that my parents purchased in New York's Bloomingdale's for \$12.95. I had wanted a Lionel train set but it was much too expensive compared to the AF set.

The train set, since it cost so much in those post-Depression years, only came out of the closet at Christmas and was run for only two weeks. This practice continued until we moved out of the city to Long Island, where our next-door neighbor was a conductor for the LIRR. His son, Tim, and I became great friends. Since Tim had a Lionel layout in his basement, I just had to have one, too. So, when I was in the seventh grade, I became a model railroader and even scratchbuilt an all-wood "steel" gondola.

Since Tim's dad worked for the LIRR, we could ride the train free and even be up front with the engineer in the electrified cab. We would go to the big city and visit the Gilbert Hall of Science

and the Lionel showroom – within walking distance of each other. Visits to Gilbert hooked me on HO and the transition was made.

In about 1950 I built my first HO-scale layout, the Imperial Valley Railroad. It was a double-track oval on a plywood sheet. A Scintilla rectifier provided power to run a Mantua 0-4-0 and a Varney diesel switcher. Rolling stock was either a Globe or Silver Streak, no plastic in those days. I even won an honorable-mention award in a contest sponsored by Silver Streak and had my entry displayed in the window of the local hobby shop – my interest in the hobby heightened.

The trains were put aside as I went off to college and then marriage. When we bought our first home I thought I'd finally have time to build that railroad. But seven kids and three relocations later, it hadn't happened. Like many, I stayed in touch with the hobby, occasionally buying model magazines, and I collected kits that caught my fancy. In the 1980s all of that would change.

was able to find some consulting work (I'm a metallurgist) which led to a job offer in Indianapolis.


In Indy, kit construction and scratchbuilding continued and I entered several

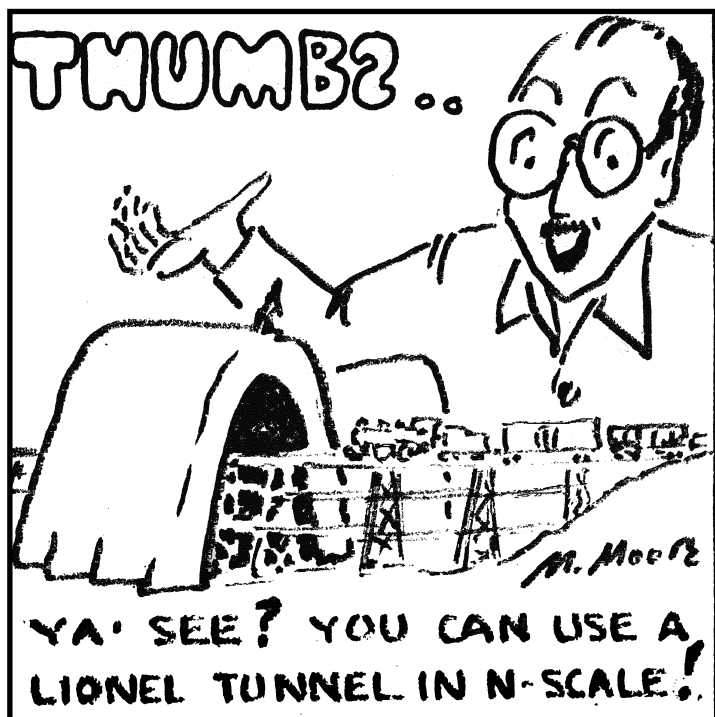
of my freight car models in a Central Indiana Division (CID) regional meet. I won two first-place awards and one second-place ribbon. On a judges' scorecard, someone noted "...he's Master Model Railroader material..." I took the advice to heart.

I enjoyed the contests, pitting my work against a set of standards. I also found that the people judging my models were a great bunch, so I offered to help them and serve on the CID Board. The camaraderie and support were outstanding. With each new model my work improved; because AP competition was working to make me a better modeler as I earned first and second places at division- and regional-level NMRA meets. I finally went to my first "Big Show" in St. Paul, then Kansas City and St. Louis. I was a consistent bridesmaid at each occasion earning several seconds and thirds.

I finally won the big prize at Toronto with my scratchbuilt, all-brass 1923 Mack railtruck. I tell you this because participating in NMRA contests does not pit you against another modeler, but against yourself and a printed set of standards. Competition has forced me to become a better modeler. Maybe I'll even get around to building that layout.

I'm currently on the CID Board of Directors and have served as Paymaster since 1997.

I have earned AP Certificates for Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Prototype Models, Model Railroad Author, Electrical Engineer and Association Volunteer. 



Only one child remained at home and a big basement was just aching for a layout. But first I had to try my hand at kit- and scratchbuilding. It was good to be back in the hobby. In 1988 I joined the NMRA. All was going well and benchwork for a 6' x 10' layout was started.

Over 50 years old, I found myself suddenly unemployed. Luckily, I

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – CONTINUED

Paul Allard Earns MMR 358

As with many of us, I started with a Lionel train at the age of four. It represented a large expense for my parents but it has led to a lifetime of enjoyment and accomplishments. I became involved in scale model railroading after visiting the American Freedom Train in 1975. I met the best model railroad teacher in the area when I purchased one of his action pictures of the train heading south on the Central Vermont mainline. In 1978, I helped to form the Northwestern Vermont Model Railroading Society. We built three 4 x 8 HO layouts and displayed them at Christmas to promote the hobby. This activity led to meeting more model railroading individuals but my knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby was limited until I joined the NMRA in 1988.

I attended a Northeastern Regional Convention and was amazed at the quality of the work displayed and the knowledge available in the clinics. We all talk about the NMRA Standards as a great resource that the NMRA brings to the table, but for me the greatest benefit is the educational oppor-

tunities that come from all of the members. As NMRA members, we have access to in-depth technical clinics at division, regional and national events plus access to expert modelers throughout the organization. We can visit a contest room to see superior craftsmanship and talk to the contestants to learn how they built their models.

After reading the NMRA Bulletin series of articles in the early 1990's, I decided to start on the journey to Master Model Railroader. I earned my first Achievement Program certificates in 1992. My pace was slowed in 1995 when I volunteered to become the Northeastern Regional AP Chairman. This assignment grew into a great opportunity to meet more NER members and to learn from their model railroading experience. During the last ten years, I helped eight NER members earn MMR while countless others are working toward that goal.

By 2001, I had earned seven certificates but was missing a certificate in the first Master

Builder category: Motive Power and Cars. I decided to complete Master Builder Motive Power by building a scratch-built brass CNR 4-6-0 steam locomotive. This



project turned out to be much larger than I had anticipated. I learned a great deal about steam locomotives and model building, which for me is the whole reason for the Achievement Program. I have certificates in Motive Power, Structures, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, Association Volunteer and Author. My next goal is to earn AP Certificates in the remaining three areas. I am sure that more educational opportunities are waiting to be discovered. 📖

BULLETIN BOARD

In Memoriam

The NMRA wishes to extend its sincere sympathy to the friends and families of those members who have reached the end of their journey. For the months of September, October and November 2005:

- H. W. Verseput, Kalamazoo, MI
- J. L. Elliott, Petoskey, MI
- Ron N. Ellis, Belleville, MI
- Kenneth E. Caulking, Houston, TX
- Albert F. Krist, Marengo, IL
- Eleanor Tebbets, Greene, ME
- Kenneth W. Schendel, Shiner, TX
- Raymond F. Wyczalek, Dover, PA
- Irving Rish, Schaumburg, IL
- Walter R. Hanson, Seattle, WA
- Leigh R. Cornelius, Missoula, MT
- L. A., Grayson Bell, Fort Pierce, FL
- Sheldon Menzin, Brooklyn, NY
- J.C. Rietveld, Hendrik Ido Ambacht, Netherlands
- Norman K. Bithell, Concord, NC
- James Burghall, Cheshire, England
- D.T. Couzens, Parksville, BC
- Norman F. Podas, Grand Marais, MN
- Frank R. Dubery, Guelph, ON
- Raymond Schultz, Stevens Point, WI
- Fred G. Verrier, Cupertino, CA
- Delmar N. Cyr, Hilliard, FL
- Morton P. Cummings, Greenacres, FL
- George L. Medding, Ipswich, MA
- A.D. Baker, York, England
- J.W. Luthy, Kinnelon, NJ
- James A. Phillips, Gaithersburg, MD
- Darwin A. Bolles, Charlotte, MI
- Douglas Wardwell, San Diego, CA

- David Giles, Mississauga, ON
- William C. Haacker, East Brunswick, NJ
- William R. Perry, Library, PA

Achievement Program

NMRA AP Certificates
Report for November 2005
*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

Golden Spike

- Paul Downs, Louisville, KY
- Allen Parker, McKean, PA
- Russell Weis, Louisville, KY
- Dick Roberts, El Cajon, CA

Master Builder - Motive Power

None this month

Master Builder - Cars

- Norman Frowley, South Orange, NJ

Master Builder - Structures

- Frederick Bock, San Antonio, TX
- Robert D. Wescott, Henderson, NV

Master Builder - Scenery

- Charlie Atkinson, Indian Springs, OH
- Sam Swanson, Cincinnati, OH
- Russell Weis, Louisville, KY*
- J. Kyle Gardiner, West Vancouver, BC, Canada*

Master Builder - Prototype Modeler

None this month

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

- Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY
- J. Kyle Gardiner, West Vancouver, BC, Canada

Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

- J. Kyle Gardiner, West Vancouver, BC, Canada

Chief Dispatcher

- Charlie Atkinson, Indian Springs, OH
- Rick Knight, Huntersville, NC
- George Pierson, Blue Island, IL

Association Official

None this month

Association Volunteer

- Brady McGuire, Sherman, TX
- Don Fowler, Louisville, KY*
- Ray Grosser, Eubank, KY

Bob McKay, DuBois, PA*

- Mark Norman, Louisville, KY*
- James Ward, Louisville, KY*
- Dennis Gerloff, Hastings, NE*
- Ralph Douglas, Warrenton, VA*
- Douglas Kirkpatrick, Falls Church, VA

Model Railroad Author

- Ron Gribler, Lebanon, OH
- Ray Persing, Tipp City, OH
- Martin Brechbiel, Annandale, VA
- Dave Rickaby, Marinette, WI
- Dick Roberts, El Cajon, CA*

Master Model Railroader

- Frederick Bock, San Antonio, TX
- Ray Grosser, Eubank, KY
- Jack Verducci, San Mateo, CA 📖

Membership Thermometer

	Total	Count Change
Jan. 2005	19,478	.113
Feb. 2005	19,462	(16)
Mar. 2005	19,282	(180)
Apr. 2005	19,284	.2
May 2005	19,404	.120
Jun. 2005	19,471	.67
Jul. 2005	19,389	(82)
Aug. 2005	18,654	(735)
Sep. 2005	19,298	.644
Oct. 2005	19,352	.54
Nov. 2005	19,399	.47
Dec. 2005	19,337	(62)