



# NMRA BULLETIN

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rev 12-1-09

2010 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

Milwaukee, Wisconsin • July, 11–18, 2010 • Info: <http://www.nmra75.org>

Train Show Booth Reservations—Debbie Draper, HLM, Registrar • 10837 N. 34th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310 • (602) 569-9072 • [nattrainshow@aol.com](mailto:nattrainshow@aol.com)

2011—Sacramento, California • 2012—Grand Rapids, Michigan • 2013—Atlanta, Georgia

## HEADQUARTERS

### ADDRESS CHANGE? BACK ISSUES OR REPLACEMENT ISSUES OF *SCALE RAILS*?

Members needing to make address changes, request back issues, or replacement issues of *SCALE RAILS* should contact the staff at the national headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, at (423) 892-2846 or by email at nmrahq@aol.com.

### PRESS RELEASE: CSRM/NMRA

November 12, 2009

After five years of research, planning, and exploration, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) and California State Parks have signed a Memorandum of Understanding paving the way for development of a model railroading exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). This MOU anticipates a 3,500 square foot model railroading exhibit to be designed and constructed by the NMRA in CSRM's Roundhouse Gallery, adjacent to the widely acclaimed "Small Wonders: The Magic of Toy Trains" exhibit which debuted in 2004.

With a working title of "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading," the proposed new exhibit will complement the subject matter already covered in CSRM's "Small Wonders" toy train exhibit. It will trace the fascinating hobby of scale model railroading from the early 19th century—when American railroads were just getting started—to the present. Spectacular and inspiring examples of vintage models created in machine shops will be included, contrasted with today's highest quality models and layouts to illustrate the constantly changing nature of this fascinating hobby and pastime. This new exhibit is expected to generate additional guest interest and increased visitation for the Museum.

The California State Railroad Museum, located at Old Sacramento State Historic Park, is an internationally known attraction operated by California State Parks with assistance from the nonprofit CSRM Foundation. Open daily, the Museum is widely regarded as the most popular of its kind in North America, attracting some 600,000 visitors annually. In addition to a changing array of exhibits and special events scheduled throughout the year, the Museum also operates steam-powered excursion trains every weekend April-September.

"The California State Railroad Museum is thrilled to partner with the National Model Railroad Association on this new initiative," said Museum Director Paul Hammond. "We see this as a natural complement to the Museum's permanent exhibit Small Wonders: The Magic of Toy Trains, which has proven to be very popular not only with collectors but also with families of all ages. We're also delighted to partner with the National Model Railroad Association in bringing the heritage and delight of scale model railroading to life for our many guests."

The National Model Railroad Association is one of the largest model railroad organizations in the world. Organized in Milwaukee in 1935, the NMRA has 20,000 members worldwide and has been instrumental in setting industry standards to ensure interchangeability of model railroad products, as well as fostering knowledge and teaching its members how to improve their skills as model railroaders. The model railroading hobby continues to be one of the most popular in the United States, with an estimated 250,000 active participants.

"We at the NMRA see this as a fantastic opportunity to tell the interesting story of scale model railroading in a world class railroad museum," said NMRA President Mike Brestel, President of the NMRA. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the general public to discover not only the history, but the exciting possibilities of this fascinating hobby. Given that no comprehensive museum dedicated to the story of scale model railroading currently exists, the NMRA is very excited to be partnering with the California State Railroad Museum to bring this concept to life."

The proposed exhibit is expected to cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000 to develop, with the Howell Day Museum of the NMRA soliciting contributions to provide the necessary funding. In addition to pursuing development of this new scale model railroading exhibit, the parties have additionally agreed to explore possible relocation of the NMRA's library collection, currently housed in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Sacramento. The collection would be administered by the staff of the California State Railroad Museum Library, also located at Old Sacramento State Historic Park. Open Tuesday-Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., the CSRM Library is North America's largest railroad-specific research and reference library.

For more information about the California State Railroad Museum, visit

www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org <<http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org/>>. For more information about the National Model Railroad Association, visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) <<http://www.nmra.org/>>

For more information, contact Tom Draper, National Model Railroad Association Phone: 602-953-1681, Cell: 602-350-9337, E-mail: [tcdraider@aol.com](mailto:tcdraider@aol.com), or Traci Rockefeller Cusack, California State Railroad Museum, Cell: (916) 213-4373.

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

\*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

NOVEMBER 2009

GOLDEN SPIKE

#### Mid-Central Region

Kevin Barrett, Loveland, Ohio

#### Rocky Mountain Region

Douglas Lamb, Payson, Utah

### MASTER BUILDER — MOTIVE POWER

#### Mid-Continent Region

Monte Hofmann, Chadron, Nebraska

Dave Roeder, Webster Groves, Missouri

### MASTER BUILDER — CARS

#### Mi-Continent Region

Frances Hale, Kansas City, Missouri

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Richard Dietrichson, Wilmington, North Carolina

#### Southeastern Region

Peter Youngblood, Kennesaw, Georgia

### MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES

#### Mid-Continent Region

Brad Morneau, Overland Park, Kansas

#### North Central Region

Joel Goldberg, West Bloomfield, Michigan

#### Pacific Northwest Region

Roger Walker, Calgary, AB

#### Rocky Mountain Region

Mark Evans, Riverton, Utah

### MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

#### Niagara Frontier Region

Raymond Howard, Geneva, New York

#### Pacific Northwest Region

Roger Walker, Calgary, AB

### **Southeastern Region**

Charlie Crawford, Marietta, Georgia

### **MASTER BUILDER — PROTOTYPE MODELS**

#### **Southeastern Region**

Glen Hall, Pensacola, Florida

### **MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — CIVIL**

#### **Niagara Frontier Region**

Graham MacDonald, Baden, ON

#### **Pacific Northwest Region**

Roger Walker, Calgary, AB

#### **Southeastern Region**

Charles Millar, Buford, Georgia

Peter Youngblood, Kennesaw, Georgia

### **MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL**

#### **Mid-Central Region**

Jim Rollwage, Wilmington, Ohio

#### **Mid-Eastern Region**

Murray White, Owings, Maryland

#### **Pacific Northwest Region**

Roger Walker, Calgary, AB

#### **Southeastern Region**

Glen Hall, Pensacola, Florida

Charles Millar, Buford, Georgia

### **CHIEF DISPATCHER**

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William Connell, Columbus, Ohio

#### **Mid-Eastern Region**

Robert Rousseau, Holly Springs, North Carolina

Mathew Thompson, Gainesville, Virginia

### **ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL**

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Marvin Preussler, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Randy Williamson, Larson, Wisconsin

#### **Northeastern Region**

Michael Evans, Morrisonville, New York

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Jack Ferris, Overland Park, Kansas

#### **Mid-Central Region**

Keith Corman, Cincinnati, Ohio

### **Mid-Eastern Region**

Jack Haynes, Charlotte, North Carolina

### **Rocky Mountain Region**

Martin Pirnat, Durango, Colorado

### **Southeastern Region**

Cornelius Sherman, Germantown, Tennessee

### **Sunshine Region**

Peter Gross, N. Fort Myers, Florida

### **MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR**

#### **Mid-Continent Region**

Jack Ferris, Overland Park, Kansas

Peter Korsching, Nevada, Iowa

#### **Mid-Eastern Region**

Karl Bond, Sykesville, Maryland

### **Midwest Region**

Thomas Cain, Indianapolis, Indiana

### **North Central Region**

Joel Goldberg, West Bloomfield, Michigan

### **Northeastern Region**

Jeff Hanke, Cheshire, Connecticut

### **Sunshine Region**

Peter Gross, N. Fort Myers, Florida

MMR GROUP: All MMRs are invited to work with other MMRs by contacting Rick Shoup, MMR, at ricshoup@verizon.net.

If you have questions about the AP program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager. If you still have questions, contact Frank Koch at fjkoch@hotmail.com. If you prefer to write, contact Frank at 4769 Silverwood Dr., Batavia, OH 45103.

### **2010 Convention Car**



## **NMRA 2010 CONVENTION CAR**

**T**he car is an Athearn 40-foot steel sided reefer. It is Ready-to-Run, with metal wheelsets and McHenry type couplers. Cost will be \$21 plus postage. No tax unless you live in Tennessee. Only 300 cars have been ordered. Orders can be placed by writing, calling or e-mailing National Headquarters in Chattanooga. 4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119 (423) 892-2846 e-mail: [hq@hq.nmra.org](mailto:hq@hq.nmra.org)



## MMR EARNED



FRANCES HALE EARNS MMR #431

**I**d like to say that I had a grand plan for achieving Master Model Railroader, but the truth is that I had no expectation of ever earning it.

I received my first Achievement Certificates in 1985 courtesy of Ron Williams, the very enthusiastic Achievement Program Director in the Mid-Continent Region. Ron was determined to make MCoR shine, so he spent a lot of time writing up the paperwork for various region members who had completed the requirements but not done the paperwork. I was one of many beneficiaries of his work.

My first three Certificates were Volunteer (1985 — in charge of the Transportation Room for the 1984 NMRA National Convention in Kansas City), Author (1985 — two years as editor and writer for *Caboose Kibitzer*, MCoR's magazine), and Official (1989 — three years as Director in Omaha, Nebraska), and I didn't write up the paperwork on any of them.

At some point, I did manage to look up the MMR requirements and my immediate thought was that it was an impossible task given my situation at the time. I lived in a one-bedroom apartment and had only a 2 x6-foot HO module to work with.

Over the intervening years, many changes have facilitated my ability to actually achieve MMR. I married a model railroader, Miles Hale, who is also an MMR. Almost from the beginning, Miles began lighting the fire under me that I could and should complete the program. It's also helped that we've lived in houses where layouts were pos-

sible and that we have gone into the business of building layouts professionally.

But still I was reluctant — did I really have all the skills necessary? In the summer of 2008 we were completing an N-scale layout when Miles suggested that it had enough square footage to qualify for the Scenery Certificate if I did all the scenery. I had to take the challenge, and I quickly found that it was fun to plan and execute the entire scenery project.

At that point, I was more than half way to the goal — four Certificates received and only three to go. Suddenly, everything looked possible, and I finally was inspired to finish my MMR.

Another client layout in the fall and winter of 2008–2009 afforded the opportunity to work on Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering. These weren't easy for me, but with Miles' patient advice, I managed to complete both of them.

That left only Motive Power or Cars to be completed. I chose to build cars. That first car I built from scratch was one of the hardest things I've ever done! But the next one wasn't nearly so bad and by the third, I felt like an expert. Even the passenger car wasn't any big problem.

I've learned a lot along the way. The most important thing I've learned is that it's good to take all the advice people offer. But you then have to sort through all that advice to find what works best for you. For example, Miles' hands are both larger and stronger than mine, so tools he uses easily don't always work for me. I've had to search out smaller

nippers, Dremels, saws, and so forth that give me more control than using his tools. Also, everybody sees things in different ways. Sometimes explanations that make perfect sense to him make no sense to me at all. It's just a different way of looking at the world and modeling.

Along the way, I got a lot of assistance and encouragement in the MMR program. I'd particularly like to thank Ron Williams of Springfield, Missouri, for starting me on the track. Former MCoR Achievement Program Chairman Pat Harriman has constantly nudged me in the right direction with his incessant but friendly demands about what I was doing. Current MCoR AP chairman Marty Vaughn and NMRA AP chairman Paul Richardson have also encouraged me and assisted with paperwork as needed. And then there's Miles: He's always there with advice, assistance, and love.

Overall, I would recommend the Master Model Railroader program to any NMRA member. It's a good way to learn new skills and test those skills with your peers in railroading. The four categories of the MMR program force you to get involved with multiple aspects of railroading and give you a broad base of knowledge in the hobby. And in the end, the program gives you confidence in your own abilities and expertise in the hobby of model railroading.

*Fran has earned the following certificates: Master Builder — Cars, Master Builder — Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer — Civil, Model Railroad Engineer — Electrical, Model Railroad Author, Association Official, and Association Volunteer.*

## MMR EARNED



W. GENE SWANSON EARNS MMR #412

**I** was born in Tacoma, Washington, in 1939. I was a kid who loved trains but was not fortunate enough to have my own

model train set. I was very lucky though to have a buddy who shared his American Flyer set with me. We set it up at his house on the upstairs landing and made tunnels out of books. We played with and watched that train run for hours and hours. When we were through, we had to box it up and put it away until another day of working on the railroad.

At an early age, I rode my bike to the Northern Pacific car shops in south Tacoma, Washington, and to the roundhouse near downtown Tacoma to see the trains and talk to anyone who would listen. I also rode my bike to Union Station in downtown Tacoma, where I spent many happy hours. There was an HO layout there on the mezzanine above the main floor that I loved to watch. My first HO car was a Hart's gondola that I carried around in my coat pocket everywhere I went. Sometimes the modelers who operated the layout at Union Station would run my car on one of their trains. What a great feeling that was! I also visited the engineers and firemen out on the ready tracks behind the coach yard at the station. A few times I even got to ride in the cab of a Consolidated or Mikado on a local day run out and back.

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1957, I went to work as an appren-

tice glazier and then worked as a journeyman glazier for 38 years. I married my wife, Jerry, in 1959 and got busy with married life. We started raising our children, Michelle, Craig, and Lynnette, in the 1960s. I also spent my time remodeling my home, coaching baseball and football for more than 20 years, and doing all the other things you do over the years as time marches on. I didn't have the time or the money for model railroading during those busy times.

Construction on my 11x11-foot model railroad began about 20 years ago. It is a freelance layout dedicated to the Old West during the 1880s because I have always been attracted to that time and its history. All structures, with the exception of one, are made of wood and many are scratchbuilt. I also like the challenge of this time period as it is not an easy task to find all the supplies that one needs to complete this type of layout. I was very fortunate to have my layout featured with pictures and a full page article in our local newspaper, *The News Tribune*, this year.

Now retired, I am currently the host of the Tacoma Model Railroad's monthly clinics that are sponsored by the National Model Railroad Association's 4th Division. I am also a member of the Puget Sound

Model Railroad Engineers that is building a world class, museum-quality layout in The Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, Washington. This is an approximately 25x90-foot prototypical layout in its own room replicating a 90-mile area in the 1950s from Puget Sound to Stampede Pass. Several of my award-winning structures are featured on this layout. This layout has been featured in *Railmodel Journal*, *Model Railroader*, *Trackside Photos*, *PBS Tracks Ahead*, and other media.

In addition to my model railroading, I have always enjoyed attending the local school's sporting events in and around the Tacoma area, attending live musical performances, and I am also a member of the Tacoma Banjo Band Club, a non-profit organization that performs about 14 play-outs per month. And, of course, spending time with and enjoying my grandchildren, Amanda, Alyson, Anna, and Griffin is a top priority.

Gene has earned the following certificates: *Master Builder — Cars*, *Master Builder — Structures*, *Master Builder — Scenery*, *Master Builder — Prototype Models*, *Model Railroad Engineer — Civil*, *Model Railroad Engineer — Electrical*, and *Association Volunteer*. 🛠️

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**Bit by bit.**



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