

# NMRA BULLETIN

## DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM MANAGERS

### Chief Administrative Officer —

Jenny Hendricks

P.O. Box 1328

Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

O: 423-892-2846 Fax: 423-899-4869

e-mail: nmrahq@nmra.org

Library - 423-892-2846 or nmraops@nmra.org

### Education Department Manager —

Bruce De Young

23 Holiday Lane

West Milford, NJ 07480

H: 973-697-8098 C: 201-803-9766

e-mail: educate@nmra.org

### Education Department Assistant Manager —

Nobby Clarke (HO, N)

34 Hopmeadow Court

Northampton, England, NN3 8QG

+44-1604-415020

### Howell Day Museum Committee Chair —

Allen Pollock

PO Box 243

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0243

H: 573-619-8532

e-mail: museum@nmra.org

### Information Technology Department —

Ben Sevier

12793 War Horse St.

San Diego, CA 92129-2219

(858) 538-9863

e-mail: itmanager@nmra.org

### Development & Fund Raising Department

Manager — Alan Anderson

4744 Colander Dr.

West Jordan, UT 84088 H: 801-613-0801

e-mail: fund@nmra.org

### Marketing Department — Director VACANT

Marketing Department — VP

Page Martin

PO Box 14789

Long Beach, CA 90853 H: 714-234-4488

e-mail: marketing@nmra.org

### Meetings and Trade Show Department

Manager — Bob Amsler

514 Dover Place

Saint Louis, MO 63111-2338

H: 314-606-6118

Fax: 314-754-2688

e-mail: conv@nmra.org

### Publications Department Manager —

Don Phillips

5381 Heather Cir.

Mason, Ohio 45040-2269

513 226-2233

e-mail: pubs@nmra.org

**Have you changed your address or other membership information?**

**Notify Headquarters**

**e-mail: nmrahq@nmra.org**

**Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am–4pm ET)**

**Mail: P.O. Box 1328**

**Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328**

### NMRA Communications Director

VACANT

### Standards and Conformance Department

Manager—Didrik A. Voss, MMR (HO)

15226 12th Dr SE

Mill Creek, WA 98012-3082

O: 425-337-5222 H: 425-337-7084

e-mail: tech-chair@nmra.org

## REGION PRESIDENTS

### Australasian Region—David O’Hearn

PO Box 4590, Lake Haven NSW 2263

H: 61 2 4393 9564 M: 61 407 811 577

e-mail president@nmra.org.au

### British Region—Mike Arnold

3 Boxgate, Crowborough

East Sussex, UK TN6 1SF

H: +44 1892 459967

C: +44 07808 323094

e-mail: brprez@nmra.org

### European Region—Alain Kap, MMR (HO, HO3, On3/30)

Kammerforststrasse 3a

D-54439 SAARBURG, Germany

Phone: +49 6581-603045

Mobile: +352 691-325089

e-mail: eprez@nmra.org

### Lone Star Region—Steven Barkley, MMR

2060 Belvedere Drive, Beaumont, TX 77708

e-mail: lsrprez@nmra.org

H: (409) 898-4403

### Mid-Central Region—Steve Kaplan

e-mail: mcrprez@nmra.org

### Mid-Continent Region —

Henry (Hank) Kraichely (HO)

716 Reinke Road, Ballwin, MO 63021

(H) 636-394-5151 (C) 314-520-6920

e-mail: mcorprez@nmra.org

### Mid-Eastern Region— P.J. Mattson, MMR

129 East Ave., Swedesboro, NJ, 08085

856-467-0421

e-mail: merprez@nmra.org

### Midwest Region—Paul Mangan

6187 Sun Valley Pkwy, Oregon, WI 53574

H: (608) 835-9577 e-mail: mwrprez@nmra.org

### Niagara Frontier Region—Richard Hatton

205 Country Lane, Stayner ON L0M 1S0

705-428-9997

e-mail: nfrprez@nmra.org

### North Central Region—Dave McMullian (HO)

279 S. River Rd., Waterville, OH 43566

H: (419) 878-4888 e-mail: ncrprez@nmra.org

### Northeastern Region—George ‘Scooter’ Youst

104 Bent Tree Lane, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

H: (315) 303-0100 e-mail: nerprez@nmra.org

### Pacific Coast Region—Pat LaTorres

2081 Horne St., San Leandro, CA 94578

H: (510) 317-7456 e-mail: pcrprez@nmra.org

### Pacific Northwest Region—Russ Segner

14419 SE 84th St., Newcastle, WA 98059

H: (425) 228 7327 e-mail: pnrprez@nmra.org

### Pacific Southwest Region—Carl Heimberger

1256 Old Hickory Road, Corona, CA 92882

H: (951) 256-1319 e-mail: psrprez@nmra.org

### Rocky Mountain Region—Gary Myers

3717 S. Walden St. Aurora, CO 80013-3517

H: (720) 837-4393 e-mail: rmrprez@nmra.org

### Southeastern Region—Glen Hall, MMR

609 Phyllis Street, Pensacola, FL 32503

H: (850) 982-2795 e-mail: serprez@nmra.org

### Sunshine Region—Gilbert Thomas, Jr.

8119 Woodvine Cir., Lakeland, FL 33810

(863) 412-3090

e-mail: ssrprez@nmra.org

### Thousand Lakes Region—Dennis Rietze

39 Shelagh Crescent

Winnipeg MB R2G 1Z6

(204) 663-2302

e-mail: tlrprez@nmra.org

2016 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

2016—Indianapolis, Indiana • July 3–10 • www.nmra2015portland.org

Train Show Booth Reservations—Susan Straub, Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

423-892-2846 • nmrrants@yahoo.com

• 2017—Orlando, FL • 2018—Kansas City, MO • 2019—Salt Lake City, UT

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

JULY 2015

#### GOLDEN SPIKE

##### Northeastern Region

Lucien Champagne, Kennebunkport, Maine

##### Pacific Coast Region

Thomas Blinn, Livermore, California

#### MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES

##### Pacific Southwest Region

Bruce Petrarca, Goodyear, Arizona

##### Southeastern Region

Charles Lampman, Hueytown, Alabama  
Jerry Michnewicz, Marietta, Georgia

#### MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

##### North Central Region

Scott Kremer, Northville, Michigan

#### MASTER BUILDER — PROTOTYPE

##### MODELS

##### Australasian Region

Arthur Hayes, Sunnybank Hills, Queensland

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Jordan, Mukilteo, Washington

#### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER —

##### ELECTRICAL

##### North Central Region

Scott Kremer, Northville, Michigan

##### CHIEF DISPATCHER

##### North Central Region

Scott Kremer, Northville, Michigan

##### Northeastern Region

Thomas Oxnard, Exeter, New Hampshire

#### ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

##### Mid-Central Region

Larry Diehl, Shawnee, Kansas

##### Mid-Central Region

Richard Lach, Beavercreek, Ohio

##### North Central Region

Scott Kremer, Northville, Michigan

##### Northeastern Region

Arthur Ellis, Bedford, Massachusetts

##### Pacific Northwest Region

David Faussett, Tacoma, Washington

David Yadock, Renton, Washington

##### Pacific Southwest Region

Bruce Petrarca, Goodyear, Arizona

Gary Robinson, Escondido, California

##### Southeastern Region

John Stewart, Hoover, Alabama

#### MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

##### Australasian Region

Robert Best, Blaxland, New South Wales

##### Pacific Coast Region

Mike Blumensaadt, San Francisco, California

#### MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Robert Best, Blaxland, New South Wales  
MMR 564

Thomas Oxnard, Exeter, New Hampshire  
MMR 565

#### AP QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the Achievement Program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager. If you still have questions, contact Frank Koch at [fkoch@hotmail.com](mailto:fkoch@hotmail.com). If you prefer to write, contact Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.

#### MMR GROUP

All Master Model Railroaders (MMR) are invited to work with other MMRs by contacting C.J. Riley, MMR, at [cjriley42@yahoo.com](mailto:cjriley42@yahoo.com).

MMRs: Master Model Railroader shirts and extra patches are available by contacting HQ in Soddy Daily, TN

## FROM NATIONAL HQ

# 2015 Awards and Honors

### PIONEER AWARD

Each year, the National Model Railroad Association presents one or more Pioneer of Model Railroading Awards to individuals who established “an impeccable record of integrity and respect as well as a history of service to the model railroad industry.” Awardees must have played a prominent role in promoting our hobby, developed a unique manufacturing process that significantly impacted the industry, or innovated in product marketing or development.

Times change, our hobby changes, those who help set scale model railroading on its course as the World’s Greatest Hobby make their mark and perhaps fade from memory. Our goal here is to ensure that we don’t forget those who made the hobby what it is today: a pastime that offers so much enjoyment to so many.

### Avery “Swede” Norlen

For 2015, it is my honor as chair of the Pioneer Award committee, with fellow committee members Allen Pollock, Mike

Brestel, and Dave Thornton, to cite the work of Avery “Swede” Norlen of Tomalco.

I have previously observed that the model railroad hobby could have survived quite nicely had we been restricted to two scales: TT (halfway between HO and N) and S (halfway between O and HO). That’s not how the storyline played out, but under the Tomalco banner, Swede Norlen certainly did more than his share to supply S and Sn3 modelers with key components, notably track. Tomalco was founded by Tom A. Lindholm in the 1940s. Swede became the sole owner of Tomalco around 1964.

Swede is generally considered the father of Sn3, which is an ideal scale for narrow-gauge modeling. He imported the first locomotives in conjunction with Pacific Fast Mail. Sn3 authority Peter Smith recalls that they were Rio Grande C-16s in both Sn3 and Sn42 (or Sn3½); the latter would run on HO track. Pete purchased the Tomalco line from Swede in the early 1990s; Bill Peter of PBL markets the Sn3 track. Swede produced a line of HO, S, and O scale narrow-gauge car kits and a line of brass investment castings for cars and locomotives plus the all-important S and Sn3 track.

The NMRA is delighted and honored to recognize the late Avery Norlen as a Pioneer of Model Railroading.

### Eberhard and Wolfgang Richter

Our next honorees for 2015 are two brothers who have done more than anyone else to confuse the terminology we use for large-scale model railroading. At the same time, they resurrected a previously popular track gauge.

Model railroad gauges and scales were once numbered: aught or zero, one, two, and so on. A printed aught standing alone looks a bit odd, so it became O scale. A scale about half that size became HO. The next larger scale was No. 1, with a 45mm track gauge.

Eberhard and Wolfgang Richter of Lehmann Garten Bahn, or LGB, explored the O scale market, decided it was already saturated, and instead looked to No. 1 scale's 45mm track. They used No. 1 scale's 45mm track gauge but treated that as meter gauge, resulting in large-scale, narrow-gauge models of 1:22.5 proportion. What they called G gauge became very popular with garden railway enthusiasts, as the equipment was far too heavy for the squirrels and mosquitoes to carry off.

Then, they decided to produce some U.S. prototype narrow-gauge equipment, and this started a rash of confusing terminology that we haven't resolved to this day. Our stuff doesn't run on meter gauge but rather on slightly narrower 36-inch gauge. So, if we use 45mm track for three-foot gauge equipment, the proportion changes to 1:20.3. That's properly called F scale.

Competitors picked up on that gauge/scale discrepancy, but LGB carried on with G gauge. Still other firms decided to join

in the large-scale renaissance but with standard-gauge models running on 45mm track, which brings us back to No. 1 scale and gauge. But two major manufacturers decided the 1:32 models looked too small, so they bulked up their models to 1:29, yet retained the 45mm track gauge.

Despite this headache-inducing terminology and mathematical gobbledegook, we can't deny that the Richter brothers started a revolution that continues to this day. The NMRA is therefore delighted and honored to recognize them as Pioneers of Model Railroading.

### Bill Wischer

The last Pioneer Award for 2015 is especially meaningful to me personally. Back in 1961, I became one of the inmates at Purdue University and, stumbling along in the footsteps of track-planning guru John Armstrong, joined the Purdue Model Railroad Club. Over the years, I met a number of fellow inmates who became lifelong friends. Among them was Bill Wischer.

Bill's parents were champion model airplane builders and fliers, but they also had an interest in railroading. They were friends with Bill Walthers, and I'm sure that influenced Bill Wischer's choice of career at Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. Bill commented that Walthers hired him because no one else would.

In the 1960s, Bill worked in the warehouse, did purchasing, and then moved to manufacturing as what Phil Walthers dubbed a jack-of-all-trades. "When we started importing European products," Phil noted, "Bill knew nothing about them. But in short order, he was traveling through Europe — by train, of course — and became an expert.

Almost all of us have been directly affected by Bill's accomplishments at Walthers. He has an encyclopedic memory of details relating to all things railroading, both models and full-size. He understands how to lay out tools for the most efficient production.

His knowledge of the company's tooling library has enabled him to figure out modifications that extend the life of the tools while creating new products that would otherwise not be possible. Bill was the key player in the integration of Ulrich, Silver Streak, Train Miniature, and Life-

Like into Walthers' portfolio. Bill started the Cornerstone line; the first kits were Magnuson cast models converted to plastic.

Bill retired to part-time in 2012, but he is still active and contributing, not only to Walthers but also to your and my enjoyment of our hobby.

The NMRA is honored to name Bill Wischer a Pioneer of Model Railroading.

### FELLOW OF THE NMRA

The Fellow of The NMRA Award may be granted to those individuals in the NMRA who have fostered the organization and the hobby and have increased an advanced social interaction and the social benefits of the hobby.

### Gerry Hopkins

Gerry is a pillar of the Australasian Region and of the NMRA itself. For at least 30 years, he has worked tirelessly for the Hobby and more particularly for the NMRA.

Gerry is a very well-known modeler throughout Australia and New Zealand and is a devoted supporter in every way. He has attended countless model railroad exhibitions throughout Australia over the years and has exhibited his own narrow gauge and standard gauge portable layouts. He has an outgoing personality, and through his efforts has attracted many, many people to the hobby and the NMRA.

Over the years, Gerry has held many roles for the NMRA. He has served the AP Chair for Australasia Region and as Deputy Chair to Frank Koch, MMR for AR. He encourages members to participate in the Achievement Program, and he has probably managed the progression to Master Model Railroader of three-quarters of the 22 Master Model Railroaders in the AR.

Gerry has held many executive positions including newsletter editor and web master, Ordinary Member of the Board, AP Chair, and Divisional Super. He is always available to the members on any number of railway and hobby-related matters. His life really does revolve around the NMRA.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award may be awarded to those who have, directly or



indirectly, member or non-member, given outstanding service to the hobby.

### Keith Wills

Keith wrote the "Collector Consist" column in *Railroad Model Craftsman*. He is one of the few who chronicled the history of the hobby, and he has been doing it very well for more than 30 years. For his body of work as perhaps the most published historian of the hobby, the Honors Committee felt he fully deserves this DSA. The committee found an interview he did for the old "The Model Railway Show" podcast back in January 2012 (the episode was sponsored by the NMRA, by the way), detailing his fascination and love of the early trains after visiting the Train Collectors Association museum in Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Honorary Life Membership is the highest honor the NMRA can bestow upon one of its present or past members. It shall be given only in recognition of

outstanding elective or voluntary service to the NMRA.

### Al Boos

In the spring 2014, Al Boos stepped down as AP Chairman in the Lone Star Region after about 16 years of service. Al proved himself as an extremely valuable source of information for many members in the region. He always made time to answer all questions and provide needed guidance and encouragement to those working on certificates. Al always gave a 100 percent effort to support the NMRA in everything he did as Region AP Chairman. He was a mentor to many members working on their MMRs. Many of the members who earned certificates owe a debt of gratitude to Al for his assistance. Al continues to be active in the Lone Star Region and is a strong proponent of the Achievement Program.

### Ken West

Ken has been the decoder tester since the inception of DCC. He worked with

Brian Barnt, Stan Ames, and several manufacturers to design a testing program for decoders. He also wrote the computer program that does this testing. The only thing that got in his way was his health. He had a severe viral infection that confined him to his bed and unable to walk ten steps before being completely exhausted. This went on for several years. Now that he has regulated his medicines, Ken has resumed his duties as the decoder baseline tester. 📺

The NMRA now accepts

**PayPal**<sup>™</sup>

- Renewals
- Memberships
- Books
- Donations
- Online store
- EVERYTHING!

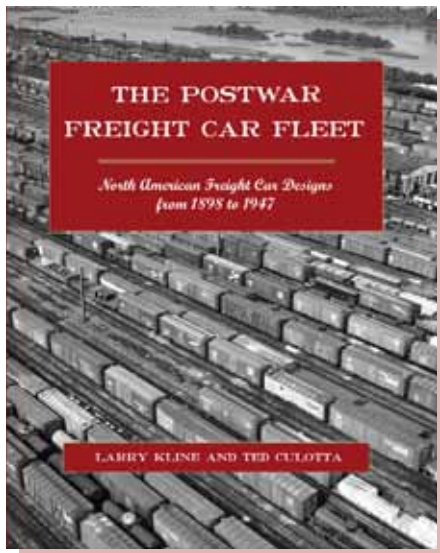
# Railroad History Comes Alive!



Not since the WWII years has the nation seen such an unprecedented number and variety of cars on the rails - until now!

NMRA®'s *Postwar Freight Car Fleet* hardcover book captures the beauty and historical significance of this prolific RR era so popular with today's modelers.

Railroading history comes alive with *Postwar Freight Car Fleet*. Get your limited-edition copy today, before it, too, becomes history.



### BOOK HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- 350+ B&W archival photos of freight cars from 1898 - 1947
- Historical car design texts from the first half of the 20th century
- Tables and graphs depicting company and private car ownership
- Authored by RR historians Larry Kline and Ted Culotta

**\$49<sup>95</sup> NMRA® members**

**\$64<sup>95</sup> Non-members**

Shipping: <sup>\$8</sup> in the U. S., <sup>\$12</sup> to all other countries.  
9.25% sales tax applies for TN residents.  
US funds only. V, MC, AMEX, DISC & PayPal accepted.

### Order by:

Online Store: [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) • Mail: P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384 • Phone: (423) 892-2846 • Fax: (423) 899-4869

© National Model Railroad Association