

NMRA BULLETIN

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2016 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

2016—Indianapolis, Indiana • July 3–10 • www.nmra2016.org

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

423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org

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

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2015

GOLDEN SPIKE

Australasian Region

Martin Canteros-Paz, Tumut, New South Wales

Robert McLear, Kingaroy, Queensland
Edward Wheeler, Wingham, New South Wales

Graham Wotton, Lisarow, New South Wales

Mid-Continent Region

Phillip Aylward, Halstead, Kansas

Mid-Eastern Region

Ted Fort, Huntington Valley, Pennsylvania
Keith Pritchard, Midlothian, Virginia

Niagara Frontier Region

Peter Hocking, Coldwater, Ontario

Pacific Coast Region

Charles Morones, Concord, California

MASTER BUILDER — CARS

Pacific Northwest Region

Andy Doll, Meridian, Idaho

MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES

Mid-Eastern Region

Earl Hackett, Hockessin, Delaware

MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

Australasian Region

Trevor James, Mandalong, New South Wales
Robert McLear, Kingaroy, Queensland

Mid-Continent Region

Mark Juett, Smithville, Missouri

Mid-Central Region

John Crellin, Wexford, Pennsylvania

Mid-Eastern Region

Earl Hackett, Hockessin, Delaware

Niagara Frontier Region

James VanBokkelen, Amesbury, Massachusetts

Peter Hocking, Coldwater, Ontario

Thousand Lakes Region

Mike Engler, Lakeville, Minnesota

MASTER BUILDER — PROTOTYPE MODELS

Australasian Region

Robert McLear, Kingaroy, Queensland

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — CIVIL Mid-Eastern Region

Jeroen Gerritsen, Baltimore, Maryland

Robert Rodriguez, Dumfries, Virginia

Northeastern Region

Robert Dennis, Staten Island, New York

Thomas Wortman, Staten Island, New York

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL

Australasian Region

Steve Chapman, Marayong, New South Wales

Mid-Eastern Region

Jeroen Gerritsen, Baltimore, Maryland

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Australasian Region

Trevor James, Mandalong, New South Wales

Mid-Central Region

John Hemsath, Bay Village, Ohio

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

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David O'Hearn, Hamlyn Terrace, New South Wales

James Tate, Hillcrest, South Australia

Midwest Region

Daniel Brewer, Granger, Indiana

Pacific Northwest Region

Wain Miller, Milton, Washington

Sunshine Region

Judy Eager, Lakeland, Florida

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

Australasian Region

Lyndon Spence, Figtree, New South Wales

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Minton Dings, Havana, Illinois MMR 572

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 fjkoch@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.

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

Did you know?

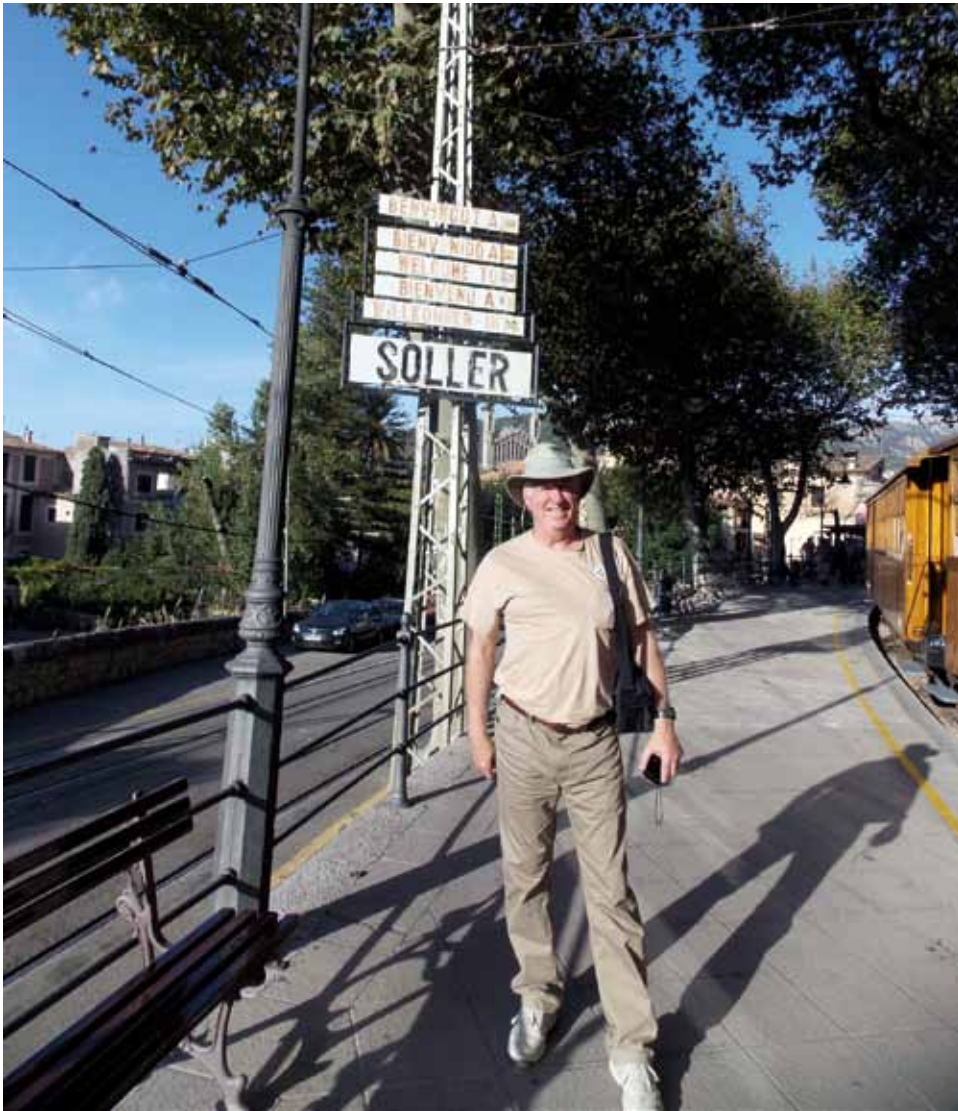
Each year, tens of millions of dollars are donated to charities all across America. These tax-deductible donations can include the NMRA, an educational not-for-profit association that educates, provides outreach, and creates standards for model railroaders around the world.

NMRA members can check with their local employer to see what they can do to make a payroll deduction to the NMRA that fits their company's budget. Several large corporations also provide a match program through doublethedonation.com. As a participant, you provide a donation and your employer matches your donation. The NMRA uses these funds to continue to educate, promote, and develop standards, so all may enjoy the greatest hobby in the world.

We appreciate any and all donations and you will be doing yourself and your hobby some good.

Help your employer donate to a great cause.





TOM BRENNISON EARNS MMR #571

Most folks say that they began modeling at a young age when their parents bought them a Lionel set for Christmas. I became a model railroader before I was born! My dad, born in 1916, grew up admiring trains and became a modeler himself. That was back in the days when most everything was scratchbuilt, at least partially.

After his hobby was interrupted by World War II, Dad reemerged himself into modeling, so by the time I was born in 1947, my modeling genes were well entrenched. My first memories of trains were around 5 or 6 years of age, and the object of that memory was an HO Varney F unit, which I still have today.

My first models were mostly airplanes, from plastic to wood, static to control wire flying types. I think my dad wanted me to learn my skills on these before allowing me to mess with the layout. Unlike most kids,

I never had a Lionel or American Flyer set. If I wanted to play trains, I had to become friends with other kids in the neighborhood who possessed these wondrous toys. The HO layout was not a toy. This point was particularly brought home to me when Dad found out that I no longer liked his Wabash paper-sided boxcar. Using cutouts of pretty yellow reefers printed in *Model Railroader*, I applied the paper sides to the Wabash car, with a generous slabbing of glue then used yellow Testor's paint to fill in the gaps; you see, boxcars were just a little bit bigger than reefers. Though the yellow paint I applied wasn't quite as close to the yellow of the reefer sides, it looked good enough to me. Unfortunately, my father didn't quite agree.

I relate that story because my modeling skills were developed from that event. Shortly afterward, my dad began helping me hone my abilities and tempered my patience — probably the most important

thing to learn when it comes to producing a better model. Dad's most oft-quoted maxim was, "Any job worth doing, is worth doing right...the first time!" As a kid, all I wanted was to buy a model airplane, slap it together, then play with it. However, since my dad took his model railroading seriously, I learned to do the same thing. Eventually, that modeling ethic seeped over into my airplane and ship modeling.

We always had a layout up until I graduated from high school. After that time, Mom and Dad moved into a smaller house, the layout disappeared, and the cars, locomotives, and structures went into boxes. Meanwhile, after college and a stint in the Navy, the layout remnants, rolling stock, locomotives, and assorted buildings languished in those boxes as I pursued my aviation career across the country. Finally settling down in Fayetteville, Georgia, in 1980 and steady employment with Delta Air Lines, I was able to open those boxes and begin my own layout.

My layout was predicated on the area where I grew up in Southwestern Virginia in the town of Narrows. There, the Virginian and the Norfolk & Western followed the New River from West Virginia to Roanoke and beyond. Naturally, my layout became the New River Valley Railroad.

In the mid-1990s, I met Joe Gelmini, an NMRA member who seemed to admire my modeling abilities. After many years of cajoling and harassment, he finally got me to submit the necessary paperwork to obtain the needed Certificates to earn my Master Model Railroader.

Many thanks go to Joe for his insistence. Most importantly, I have a profound admiration and gratitude for my dad, who taught me not only how to be a decent modeler, but gave me a wonderful lifelong hobby that has brought much pleasure and fulfillment.

Incidentally, I still have that Wabash boxcar...as an object lesson.

**AP Certificates
Tom Brennison**

- Master Builder – Scenery**
- Association Volunteer**
- Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical**
- Model Railroad Engineer – Civil**
- Master Builder – Cars**
- Master Builder – Structures**
- Chief Dispatcher**