

NMRA BULLETIN

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2016

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Thousand Lakes Region

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Mike Blumensaadt, San Francisco, California

MASTER BUILDER – STRUCTURES

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North Central Region

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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. 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.





DAVE CAPRON EARNS MMR #576

Moving from Indiana to Arizona in the early 1950s helped to foster my later love of trains. Out West, the roads and the railroad tracks next to them (I think the tracks came first) are very straight and level. As we traveled in our car at a speed just a bit faster than the train, we would

catch up to it, and I would have an opportunity to count the cars as we progressed — 25, 50, 100, and more. Then, the smoke would appear and finally the huge black monster pulling all those cars would come into view.

Steam engines have always been my

favorite and a major reason why I model in the 1950s. Model railroading started for me also in the 1950s, when my father presented me with an American Flyer set for Christmas. We built a layout around the basement's huge oil furnace with all the octopus ducts. We had just started the popular "railroad that grows" as a Boy Scout project

when we moved to Michigan, and all was boxed up.

Things got packed up again when I went to college. In the early 1970s, I observed a Kadee coupler demo in a local hobby shop. My thoughts were immediate — we can really operate now. I started a new layout the next week.

My current layout is a double-deck, 850-foot main line that keeps 15 operators very busy for three-hour operating sessions using those Kadee couplers.

About 25 years ago, we started a Round Robin — the Little Finger Train Group — of three layouts, but something was missing. The NMRA was a long ways away. True, we could journey to Division meetings and Regional conventions, but the driving distance of three to five hours was a deterrent. With the help of our NCR President, Dave McMullian, and Central District Director, Pete Magoun, MMR, we created our own Division. The "Tip of the Mitt" brought the NMRA to northern Michigan. Being elected Division 2 Superintendent gave me the opportunity to serve on the NCR Board of Directors. This has given me great insight into the workings of the NCR and its leadership goals.

One of the expectations of being a Master Model Railroader is service to the NMRA. Continuation on the NCR BOD as the vice president will permit me to be an ambassador for this great hobby in a leadership role. Looking at the history of the NMRA and the number of MMRs compared to the total number of members past and present humbles me as to the very small minority that has been honored with the MMR achievement. It takes a good amount of time to complete the requirements and paperwork to earn the seven certificates. You can spread that time out over many years, or make a commitment to do it now. The ones I chose were (Dispatcher, Electrical, Author, Cars, Scenery, Civil and my favorite, Structures). While a couple of these took me out of my "comfort zone," they did show me new modeling techniques that I continue to use. We all need a hobby, and this one offers more variety, opportunities, challenges, and camaraderie than any other. There are many great aspects of this hobby, but the NMRA members are the best. 📱

Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.

Visit www.nmra.org. Then improve your skills. And your hobby.



We make it even more fun.
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