

NMRA BULLETIN

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VACANT

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

**Notify Headquarters
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mation to the NMRA Secretary:
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Thousand Lakes Region—Jay Manning
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e-mail: tlrprez@nmra.org

2017 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

2018—Kansas City, MO • August 5–12, 2018 • <http://kc2018.org>

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

423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org

• 2019—Salt Lake City, UT • 2020—St. Louis, MO • 2021—Santa Clara, CA

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT AUGUST 2017 GOLDEN SPIKE

Southeastern Region

Vince D'Alessandro, Crossville, Tennessee
George Guill, Canton, Georgia

Thousand Lakes Region

Kevin Foley, Oakdale, Minnesota

MASTER BUILDER – MOTIVE POWER Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon

MASTER BUILDER – CARS

Mid-Continent Region

Robert McBean, Overland Park, Kansas

Southeastern Region

Brian Glock, Roswell, Georgia

MASTER BUILDER – STRUCTURES

Mid-Continent Region

Steve Morrison, Claremore, Oklahoma

Mid-Eastern Region

Joe Walters, Bear, Delaware

Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon

MASTER BUILDER – SCENERY

Mid-Continent Region

Murray Bouschlicher, Iowa City, Iowa

Mid-Central Region

Pat Homan, Cincinnati, Ohio
Darrell Logan, Grove City, Ohio
Dave Puthoff, Cincinnati, Ohio
Rick Stern, Cincinnati, Ohio

Mid-Eastern Region

Joe Walters, Bear, Delaware

Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon

Southeastern Region

Peter Banks, Lynn Haven, Florida
Brian Glock, Roswell, Georgia

MASTER BUILDER – PROTOTYPE MODELS

Northeastern Region

Justin Maguire, MMR, Barrington, Rhode Island

Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – CIVIL

Mid-Eastern Region

Joe Walters, Bear, Delaware

Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon

Southeastern Region

Peter Banks, Lynn Haven, Florida

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – ELECTRICAL

Mid-Eastern Region

Joe Walters, Bear, Delaware

Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon

Southeastern Region

Peter Banks, Lynn Haven, Florida
Brian Glock, Roswell, Georgia

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Mid-Eastern Region

Joe Walters, Bear, Delaware

Midwest Region

Ronald Christensen, Stevensville, Michigan

Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon
Warner Swarner, Portland, Oregon

Sunshine Region

Beverly Farnham, Palm Bay, Florida

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

European Region

Alain Kap, Saarburg, Germany

Mid-Continent Region

Ryan Moats, MMR, Omaha, Nebraska

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

British Region

Peter Bowen, East Horrington, Somerset

Northeastern Region

Arthur Krass, Ballston Lake, New York

Sunshine Region

James Wilson, Fort Myers, Florida

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

European Region

Mike Holly, Hunstetten, Germany

Mid-Eastern Region

Kenneth Montero, Midlothian, Virginia

Pacific Northwest Region

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Gary Lee, Corbett, Oregon, MMR 598
Warner Swarner, Portland, Oregon, MMR 599

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?

NMRA National Convention Clinics in the Members Only section on the NMRA's Website

Numerous videos were made of clinics at several recent National Conventions. These 85 videos, initially available on DVDs from the NMRA Library, are now becoming available in the Members Only section of the website. You can browse and view them either from the Education menu or the "Watch Convention Videos" button on the Member Home Page.

You can watch a National Convention Clinic - AT HOME.



JOHN SIEGLE EARNS MMR #601

My interest in railroading began (as it did with many) with a Lionel train around the Christmas tree. Santa brought it as a gift for my two brothers and me. I kept a high interest in the train. When I later began delivering papers, I used some of my money to “buy out” my brothers’ shares. As a youth, I learned how to clean and repair Lionel engines. I then built a simple two-layer layout in our unfinished basement. The mountains were covered with “snow.” That layout expanded into a summer setting on an extension down the wall. I scratchbuilt some buildings and converted some others for use on the layout. I first subscribed to a model rail magazine that targeted young people. That publication led me to upgrade to *Model Railroader*, which provided many inspiring articles in the 1960s and 1970s.

After graduating from seminary, I was able to continue my involvement with modeling. I had joined the NMRA and found many suggestions that were very helpful. I attended a few National NMRA conventions: Washington, D.C.; Atlanta, Georgia; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I still remember the double-headed steam trip in Atlanta. We all poured out to watch the train turn on a wye for the return trip. I heard, saw, and felt the engines slipping their wheels to start out of the wye. I also remember touring the Alexandria Yard, which is no longer in existence.

My occupation required moving after several years at each assignment. So, I designed the base of the layout to be six 4x4-foot tables bolted together with bolted-on legs. A separate wiring bundle was prepared for each table. Structures and track were planned so table separation could be done with minimum adjustments, making moves easier and less cumbersome.

However satisfying those years of modeling were, my occupation as a pastor gradually became more demanding with less time available for hobbies. I reduced my activity in model railroading, even discontinuing *Model Railroader* and suspending my NMRA membership.

Years later, as I approached retirement, I found more time for the hobby. Dave Frary’s book, *How to Build Realistic Model Railroad Scenery*, was extremely helpful. Lou Sassi’s book, *Basic Scenery for Model Railroaders*, provided some additional inspiration.



I rebuilt the basic table framing from years earlier and used an improved track plan. The control panel directs the appropriate power to source track, operating accessories, and lights. The track is divided into blocks, and each block can be turned off or supplied with either power controlled by the modern MTH remote control system or controlled directly by the transformer variable control. This set up provides easy, versatile control for operation and makes it easier to trace electrical problems that might develop.

I was always looking for things to use or adapt, no matter where I would travel, to keep my modeling expenses lower. That resourceful practice provided more variety in my “RR” experiences. For track ballast and other small stone effects, I collected materials from many locations: fine sand (Utley Quarry, Wisconsin), pyrite stone (Shewbird Mountain quarry in Hayesville, North Carolina), black ground-up pavement (Alexandria, Virginia), flat stone from the roadside (Covington, Virginia), red stone from Colorado River banks (Utah—not in national Park), and gray stone (Evington Quarry, Virginia).

For tree details and grass, I cooked and dyed strands of binders twine along with a large amount of sawdust from a custom furniture manufacture in Alexandria. I spread the dyed items on newspaper to dry in the hot sun. It made quite a sight to see batches of different green and brown colors scattered all over the backyard. I collected various materi-

als for making trees and grasses: weeds from roadsides, sumac, crepe myrtle trimmings (including stems of matured blossoms after removing the seed beads). Also, I inserted broom straw to twist between two thin wires and trimmed in the shape of pine trees.

The best material I found for making hardwood trees was sagebrush. Commercial trees large enough for O-scale seemed so expensive. One summer, while camping across the Northwest, I spotted a field where preparations were being made to begin construction. I cut a half-dozen sagebrush shrubs and fit them into the car. The well-matured sagebrush plants (knurled and multi-branched) provided beautiful tree shapes for O-scale, as well as a wonderful scented car ride home.

I love using common, often discarded materials. Most buildings are scratchbuilt from card stock and wood. My details are diverse in resources. The farmhouse metal roof is from a five-gallon oil can. It is painted with aluminum paint, which secures and colors the thread that stretches down the roof to represent the tin joints. The white clapboards on the farmhouse were cut from powdered milk boxes (treated cardboard). That building is now more than 40 years old. The stone house has gray stones glued to the exterior wall, and the wood-type shingles are cut from matchboxes. Homes have interior furniture: beds with bedspreads, rugs on the floor, pictures on the wall, and so forth. The grocery store has shelves and fruit bins stocked and meat coolers filled. The hardware store has

very diverse stock arranged on shelves and drawers for nails, screws, and bolts on the back wall. The hardware store also has limited plants available in the area to the side of the store. Other details also are found on other various buildings, depending on its usage.

In my retirement, I met Chuck Hlydik, who surprised me when he visited my layout of the Shenandoah Southern RR. Upon looking at the layout, he suddenly stated he would recommend me for a Golden Spike Award. That was an introduction to a whole dimension of the hobby of which I was not acquainted. He encouraged me to take a look at the Master Model Railroader Achievement Program. His continued support led me to begin with writing up many of the structures and layout construction aspects to qualify for various AP Certificates. That support was also important as I tackled other AP Certificates. The last Certificate has taken me the longest to complete: Master Builder-Cars.

The hobby has its concentration on details, labor-intensive activities, and challenging new activities. But it is rewarding to find

the sense of fulfillment in one's endeavors. People like Chuck, George Riley (now with White River Productions), Tom Ledford (former Lynchburg Museum Curator), Rodney Vance, and Bob Carroll were inspiration and supporters. Encouragement came from a number of members in the Division and Regional NMRA.

With railroad modeling adding value to my life, railroading interest also reached out in other dimensions. In retirement, I joined the National Rail Historical Society through which I have seen many presentations on prototype railroads from over the last 65 years. I have not only learned a lot, but also had the opportunity to be a car host for excursions. Trips included for several years excursions to various cities behind the renovated J-611 out of the Roanoke Museum of Transportation — a real joy.

Another activity where the hobby is shared is being part of a crew on layouts designed for group operation. It is a great experience. I also enjoy attending conventions with presentations on various modeling techniques, visiting/operating on layouts in the

vicinity, visiting railroad facilities, meeting people with particular skills and knowledge of modeling (and more). It is a blessing to one's enjoyment of railroad modeling.

[Side note: what many experienced modelers find curious about me is that I never gave up 3-rail operation. It may be 3-rail, but I strived to make my structures and the rail cars I built to match O-scale. The 3-rail also provides an interesting variety of operational possibilities.]

The hobby provides all types of experiences and challenges. I am grateful to all the hobby people for adding a treasured dimension to my life, and yes, the train from Santa is still on my layout!

Certificates Earned John Siegle

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

2018 Election Slate of Candidates and Nominations By Petition

2018 Election Slate of Candidates

President

Pete Magoun

Vice President—Special Projects

Gerry Leone

Vice President—Administration

John Stevens

At-large Director North America

**Jim Gore
Mike Mackey**

Eastern District Director

**Bob Hamm
Walton Liles**

Pacific District Director

**Peter Burrows
Dion Koch
Robert Peterson**

2018 Election Nominations By Petition

There were no nominations by petition received by the Assistant Secretary or the Headquarters office.