

NMRA BULLETIN

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**Have you changed your address or
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Notify NMRA Headquarters

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2023 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
Dallas, Texas August 20 – 26, 2023 (<https://www.2023texasexpress.com/>)
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org
• 2024—Long Beach, California • 2025

rev3/29/2023

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

MARCH 2023

GOLDEN SPIKE

Mid-Central Region

Kevin Ellis, Lexington, Kentucky

Mid-Eastern Region

Michael Rossi, Pittsboro, North Carolina

Midwest Region

Jerry Wienandt, Chilton, Wisconsin

Northeastern Region

Will Everitt, Portland, Maine

Pacific Northwest Region

Ian McIntosh, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

MASTER BUILDER - CARS

Lone Star Region

Lourdes McCleary, Kingwood, Texas

Mid-Central Region

Richard Turton, Morgantown, West Virginia

Mid-Eastern Region

Steve Salotti, Collegeville, Pennsylvania

MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES

Mid-Central Region

Cecil Stewart, Bardstown, Kentucky

MASTER BUILDER - SCENERY

Lone Star Region

David Paul, Sugarland, Texas
C. Randall Wilson, Kingwood, Texas

Mid-Eastern Region

William Fagan, Warminster, Pennsylvania

Pacific Northwest Region

Dennis Dreher, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL

British Region

Raymond Fenton, London, United Kingdom

Lone Star Region

David Paul, Sugarland, Texas

Mid-Eastern Region

John Griffith, Lorton, Virginia

Northeastern Region

George Landow, Providence, Rhode Island

Rocky Mountain Region

Paul Dishman, Provo, Utah

Mid-Eastern Region

William E. Waples III, Newport News, Virginia

Midwest Region

Greg Bueltmann, Gary, Indiana

Sunshine Region

Chip Pecere, Vero Beach, Florida

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Mid-Central Region

Cecil Stewart, Bardstown, Kentucky

Mid-Continent Region

Cynthia Priest, Parkville, Missouri

Pacific Northwest Region

Larry Baxter, Liberty Lake, Washington
Peter Ulvestad, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

Pacific Southwest Region

Joel Morse, Garden Grove, California

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

Lone Star Region

Cole Rash, Cleburne, Texas

Mid-Continent Region

Dan Knipp, Belleville, Illinois

Niagara Frontier Region

Paul Hurly, Baden, Ontario, Canada

Northeastern Region

George Landow, Providence, Rhode Island

Pacific Northwest Region

Raymond Hagele, Bremerton, Washington
Clete Hastings, Pasco, Washington
Doug Johnson, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Rocky Mountain Region

Lloyd Thomson, Washington, Utah

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

Mid-Continent Region

Gregory Ohlmacher, Lawrence, Kansas

Mid-Eastern Region

Dave Chance, Kannapolis, North Carolina
Michele Chance, Kannapolis, North Carolina

Niagara Frontier Region

Paul Hurly, Baden, Ontario, Canada

Pacific Northwest Region

Joe Green, Sequim, Washington

Southeastern Region

Charles Higdon, Jasper, Tennessee

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER®

MMR® #734 Richard Turton, Morgantown, West Virginia
MMR® #735 Thomas Persoon, Coralville, Iowa

AP QUESTIONS: 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 achiev@nmra.org.

Did you know?

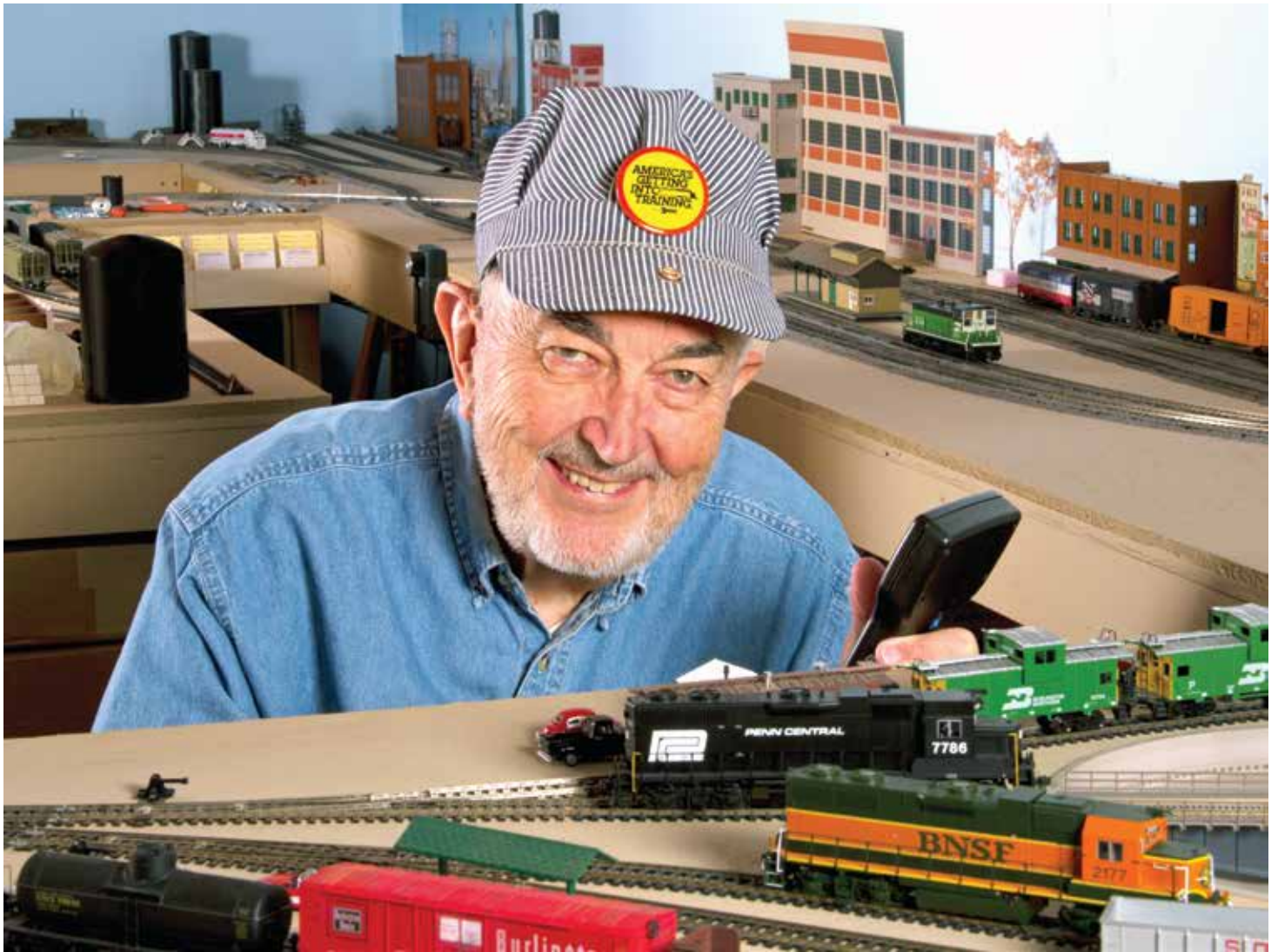
The NMRA Has a Twitter Feed!

Sharing up-to-the-minute NMRA information is now easier than ever... not only can you follow what's happening, you can also offer your point of view to fellow Tweeters. And it's all at your fingertips when you download the [free](#) Twitter app to your favorite mobile device.

for Twitter app information, please visit www.twitter.com

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ED LIESSE TO RECEIVE NMRA MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD FOR MANY YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

Ed Liesse of Federal Way, Washington, has been selected to receive the NMRA Meritorious Service Award. Ed joined the NMRA more than 70 years ago, in January 1952, while still in high school. Along the way, he received lots of guidance from many of the hobby's famous names, including Ed Ravenscroft.

A lifelong Pennsy fan, Ed grew up a block-and-a-half from the New York Central/Pennsylvania Railroad "raceway"

and could see the *Twentieth Century Limited* and the *Broadway Limited* racing each other through town before the lines diverged a bit to the east.

Ed received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Purdue University, the latter in Industrial Education. Professionally, Mr. Liesse worked in Quality Control for Western Electric and taught high school Industrial Arts. However, he spent the bulk of his career at United Airlines in California, eventu-

ally retiring as Manager of Maintenance Training.

For more than 70 years, Ed has had continuous membership in NMRA. He has served in many club, Division, and Region positions. For the last 13 years, Ed has served as Office Manager for the Pacific Northwest Region.

Ed is also a Life Member of the NMRA and received the NMRA Fellow Award in 2013.

JOHN DECKER

EARNs

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #733

Dad started my interest in trains at an early age — he purchased a Lionel train set when I turned one year old. This set could be found under the Christmas tree every year until I was at least ten.

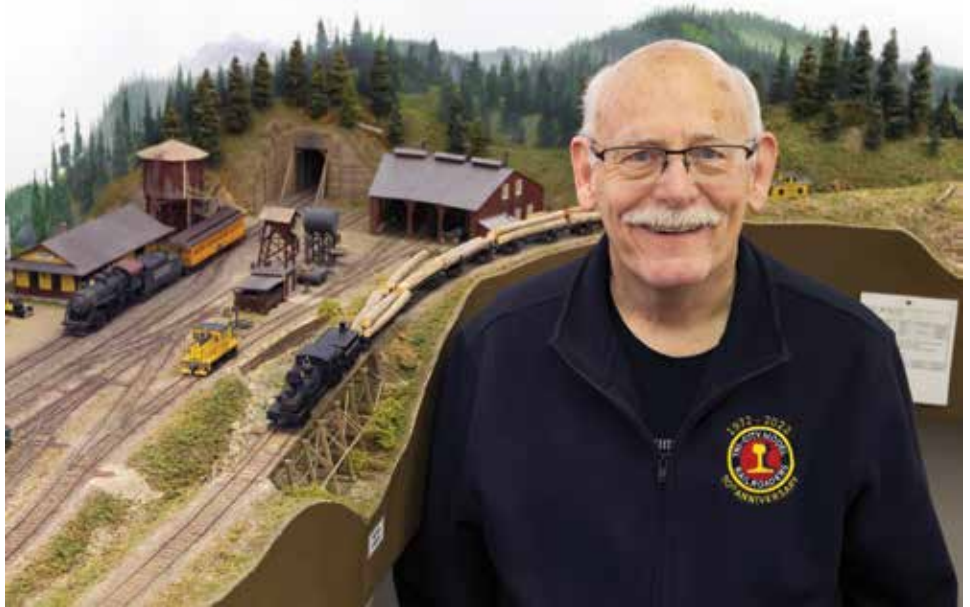
Both Mom and Dad were responsible for getting me into more serious model railroading. One day, as Dad arrived home from work, Mom told him he needed to find something to keep her 6th grader busy (apparently, I was a handful as a child). So that weekend Dad took me to Webster's Hobby Shop in Phoenix, Arizona, to buy a model airplane for me to build. The shop was closed, but there was a small model railroad in the window. I informed Dad that I didn't want an airplane, I wanted one of those. The next weekend I was the proud owner of a Mantua 0-6-0 locomotive kit and a Silver Streak SP caboose kit, which did keep me busy. And that was the beginning of a lifetime of model railroading. Dad helped me build a train table along two walls of my bedroom, and I began laying track using Tru-Scale self-gauging track and hand-spiking Code 100 brass rail.

I met a girlfriend in my freshman year of high school. This is when most young model railroaders lose interest in the hobby. But I kept on modeling and even invited my girlfriend over to run trains. Perhaps to impress her, I named the railroad Glory Bee and Middleton (Middleton being her last name). The GB&M has been around, in one form or another, for 63 years now.

During my high school sophomore year, our family moved from Phoenix to Denver. This is where I fell in love with mining railroads. Mom and Dad frequently took us on picnic trips to the mining and railroad towns in the mountains west of Denver.

Remember that girlfriend I met in Phoenix? Well, we were married in Phoenix (57 wonderful years now) after my junior year at Colorado State University. Our honeymoon included stopping by Silverton, Colorado, to snap some photos before traveling on to CSU.

It is here that we had our first child (Michael), and yes, I headed from the hospital to the hobby shop and purchased an N-scale train set. Later we had a girl



(Deborah) who loves model railroads (especially operations) and now lives with her husband, also a model railroader, only two miles away. He helped build the 15x18-foot train room in the garage of our current home. I'm currently helping my grandson (my son's boy) to build an N-scale railroad..

Following graduate school, we moved to Washington State where I added logging and rail/marine operations to my model railroad interests.

Up until this time, I had been a lone wolf model railroader, but that was to change in a big way. Shortly after our move, my wife noticed an announcement in the local paper of a model railroad function in our city, which she encouraged me to attend. This is where I met Gene Miller, Gerry Ohler, Bob Moore, George Goulet, Jim Taylor, and John DeStees. Over the years that followed, these fellow model railroaders (along with many others) mentored and encouraged me. And I have had the opportunity to mentor many others.

In 1972, these fellows and others founded the Tri-City Model Railroaders, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Over the years, the TCMR has built numerous railroads, both static and portable. We are now fortunate to own a building in downtown Kennewick, Washington, and we have quite a railroad-in-the-making. It represents segments of the Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, and Spokane, Portland & Seattle in Washington State. Part of our charter is presenting the history of railroading in our area to the

people who visit our model railroad. It was Northern Pacific that encouraged settlement in our area of Washington. Our facility is open to the public for about three hours each weekend. It has always been a goal of the club to bring the hobby of model railroading to the public.

I, and the original group mentioned above, built a 15x15-foot room in the basement of our first home, and I began building my first serious model railroad (much of which is still in existence in our current home). Several in the group were interested in operations, so I added a car card and waybill system. We have operating sessions on the GB&M on an irregular basis.

It was during this early time our group hosted a PNR 5th Division meeting. I really had no idea what the NMRA and the PNR were all about, but I was soon to find out. The group encouraged me to run for 5th Division PNR Superintendent.

Over the years, our whole family became very involved in both 5th Division and PNR activities. As a family of four, we attended several Regional conventions and many mini-meets.

I volunteered to chair several mini-meets in the 5th Division. I also served as 5th Division Achievement Program Chair and was elected 5th Division Superintendent, both for six years. I was the Convention Chair for two PNR Regional Conventions and was managing editor of the *Switchlist* (the PNR newsletter) for five years. I was awarded PNR Member of the Year for 1986 and again in 2001

— an honorable recognition for service to the PNR.

You may wonder why a person would want to be active in all these events that take away time you could be modeling: because you meet and work with great people, you learn more modeling skills (a major goal of the NMRA Achievement Program), you learn organizational and people skills, and you have *a lot of fun!* I would not trade these experiences for anything. Friendship is a gift from the NMRA, but you must participate to receive that gift.

I am a Life Member of the NMRA, and our club, Tri-City Model Railroaders (TCMR), is proud to be 100% NMRA and is active in its events.

I earned my first Merit Award in November 1974 and my MMR® in March 2023. For those of you counting, that's nearly 50 years. Some words of wisdom — if you want to achieve Master Model Railroader®, don't wait so long to complete the requirements. It can get a lot more difficult to create fine models as you enter your later years.

Certificates Earned John Decker, MMR® #733

Association Official
Association Volunteer
Chief Dispatcher
Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical
Model Railroad Author
Model Railroad Engineer – Civil
Master Builder – Structures
Master Builder – Scenery
Master Builder – Cars

MMR EARNED

RICHARD TURTON

EARNs

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #734

Growing up in England (1955 to 1977) meant train travel and railways were a part of everyday life. My first recollection of traveling on a train was at age 5, accompanying my mother to an appointment at Guy's Children's Hospital, close to London Bridge station. Another vivid memory from that era was my father taking me to see the *Golden Arrow*, which at the time was a British Rail premier steam train providing service from London to Dover for passengers destined for Paris. Indeed, when I began grammar school at age 11, I traveled on a train every day to and from the suburbs of London to London Bridge station and walked a mile or so to school (St. Olave's GS), which was located on the Thames opposite the Tower of London.

My model railroad (railway) interest started when I was 8 with a Christmas present of a Triang-Hornby train set complete with an 0-6-0 tank engine, track, freight cars, and a turntable. I recall building and dismantling many layouts in my bedroom but never getting beyond the "plywood empire" stage. My interest in modeling waned during my teenage years. Still, when I started my degree at the University of Nottingham, I met my lifelong friend, Mark Tindle, who just happened to be a North American railroad modeler. His friendship and encouragement rekindled my enthusiasm for model railroading, and I became hooked again on modeling, albeit in fine-scale OO British outline. In 1980, I emigrated to the United States but, for several years,



continued to dabble in fine-scale British model railways. Around 1986, I moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, to take up a position in the Chemical Engineering Department at West Virginia University. At this point, I switched to American HO and have been modeling in this gauge ever since.

I have been a member of the NMRA for more than 30 years. However, I did not participate in any NMRA events until 2016, when I entered my first contest (with a scratchbuilt turntable) at the MCR convention "Rails to the Capital" in Columbus, Ohio. I was fortunate to receive the first-place award in the structure

category, but, more importantly, I earned my first Merit Award, and the rest, as they say, is history. During the seven years it has taken me to obtain my MMR®, I have learned more than I thought possible about modeling and prototype practice and have also been able to contribute to the hobby. I encourage everyone who wants to improve their modeling skills and be of service to this great hobby to seriously consider participating in the NMRA's Achievement Program. I have also met and been inspired by many other talented modelers who have offered me advice and encouragement throughout this odyssey to become an MMR®. In

particular, I would like to thank Mike Hohn (MMR®#334), Sam Swanson (MMR®#600), and Miles and Fran Hale (MMR®#90 and #431) for two “degrees” from their Model Railroading University, Philip Sharp, Dennis Vaccaro, and all my friends and workmates at the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society. My special thanks go to my wife of 31 years, Becky,

for putting up with me and my crazy (and sometimes obsessive) hobby.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this award to my very dear late friend Mark Tindle, who passed away far too early. I am proud to have become an MMR®, and I think Mark would also be proud of my achievement.

Certificates Earned Richard Turton, MMR® #734

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