



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

The NMRA advances the worldwide scale model railroading community through education and standards as well as advocacy and fellowship.

Headquarters office • 4121 Cromwell Road • Chattanooga, TN 37421 • (423) 892-2846 • Fax: (423) 899-4869

Visit the NMRA on the World Wide Web: <http://www.nmra.org>

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President—Michael C. Brestel (O, HO)
3208 Vittmer Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45238
H: (513) 481-0185 W: (513) 661-2141
e-mail: pres@hq.nmra.org

Vice President—Allen Pollock, HLM (1:20.3)
PO Box 243
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0243
H: (573) 636-9946
e-mail: vp@hq.nmra.org

Secretary—Robert (Bob) V. Gangwish (HO)
1704 S. Lake Reedy Blvd.
Frostproof, FL 33843-7652
H: 863-635-2003
e-mail: secy@hq.nmra.org

Treasurer—Tom Draper, HLM, DSA (HO)
10837 N. 34th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310
H: (602) 953-1681 Fax: (602) 953-0751
e-mail: treas@hq.nmra.org

NMRA Canada President—Ron Einarson
1364 Dudley Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 1P3
H: (204) 475-6267
e-mail: presca@hq.nmra.org

Past President—John Roberts MMR, HLM (O)
104 Heritage Pointe
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7894 H: 757-345-3797
O: 757-345-3118 Fax: 757-345-6944
e-mail: pastpres@hq.nmra.org

General Counsel—Robert J. Amsler, Jr.
514 Dover Place
Saint Louis, MO 63111-2338
314-353-9131 or
314-754-2688
legal@hq.nmra.org

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Ferguson (HO, G)
530 Fig Tree Ln.
Martinez, CA 94553
H: (925) 228-6833 e-mail: raaddir@hq.nmra.org

Tony Koester (HO)
949 Ridge Rd.
Newton, NJ 07860
H: (973) 579-1938 Fax: (973) 579-7474
e-mail: alwvdir@hq.nmra.org

Charlie Getz, HLM (HO)
42 Madera Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070
H: (650) 591-8916 e-mail: alnadir@hq.nmra.org

Clark Kooning, MMR (Sn3)
2869 Battleford Road Unit 3014
Mississauga, Ont. Can L5N 2S65
C: (416) 899-9041 e-mail: candir@hq.nmra.org

Peter Jensen (HO, G)
Post Office Box 694
Cessnock, NSW 2325 Australia
(61) 2-4990-9855 e-mail: paaddir@hq.nmra.org

Nobby Clarke (HO, N)
34 Hopmeadow Court
Northampton, England, NN3 8QG
+44-01604-415020 e-mail: atldir@hq.nmra.org

Miles Hale, MMR (On30)
5608 N. Mercier Drive
Kansas City, MO 64118
H: (816) 588-2302 e-mail: westdir@hq.nmra.org

Dave Thornton (O)
2027 Jeffrey Dr.
Troy, MI 48085-3816
H: (248) 879-6806 e-mail: centdir@hq.nmra.org

John Roberts MMR, HLM (O)
104 Heritage Pointe
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7894 H: 757-345-3797
O: 757-345-3118 Fax: 757-345-6944
e-mail: eastdir@hq.nmra.org

Welcome!



NMRA President Mike Brestel

As president of the National Model Railroad Association, it's my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our National Convention and Train Show. For many

of you this will be your first opportunity to participate in these events, as well as your first chance to see the NMRA's monthly publication, **SCALE RAILS**. I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and that you find the train show and related activities both fun and educational.

We sponsor our National Convention and Train Show every summer. The events are hosted in a different city around the U.S. each year, which allows our members and others interested in model railroading from all around the country eventually to have one of these activities held near them.

Our 2009 Hartford Convention and Show have been planned and presented by NMRA volunteers from around the country and around the world. The Hartford Host Committee has been preparing for this week for over five years, and has worked with our National Meetings and Trade Shows Department to make sure that you get a chance to see what the Hartford area has to offer.

Our National Train Show showcases the latest products offered in the hobby and brings together a wide variety of model railroad displays, dioramas, layouts, and "how-to" presentations focusing on many of the skills we use to create the beautiful models and miniature worlds you will be seeing. If it's your first time seeing model railroading at this level, please don't let it overwhelm you. Remember that most of us started with a train set under the tree or something similar, and if we can do it, so can you!

We encourage you to learn more about the NMRA and model railroading by visiting us at our website, www.nmra.org. We also invite you to stop by our membership booth, located near the show entrance, where you can learn more about the NMRA's local, regional, and national activities. In addition, the booth will be staffed by volunteers from the local area who are experts on model railroading activity here in Hartford, Connecticut, and New England.

In closing, thanks for attending this year's National Convention and Train Show. I hope you'll enjoy visiting with us as much as we've enjoyed having you here!

Communications Director appointed

I'm pleased to announce that Gerry Leone, MMR, has agreed to serve the NMRA as our Communications Director. This newly created position is designed to help foster communications within the NMRA, as well as monitor NMRA communications with the outside world.

Gerry's been sending out eblasts to Division newsletter editors for the past four years as Deputy Chair of the Membership Services Department, and last April he began a monthly **NMRA Info Net** eblast to region presidents, giving them an overview of what's happening at NMRA National. He plans to add division superintendents to this mailing in the near future. In addition, Gerry will be overseeing many of the other communications generated by the NMRA.

Chances are you've already seen his work — he's had over 30 articles published in the model railroad press (including **SCALE RAILS**) in the last decade. Gerry is also editor of the TLR's **Fusee**, as well as PR Director for the region. He works as a creative director and writer at a large Minneapolis advertising agency.

Membership: NMRA membership dues are \$55 (U.S. currency) per year, of which \$19 covers subscription to the official publication, **SCALE RAILS** and **NMRA BULLETIN**[®]. Address all membership applications, renewals, notices of non-receipt (issues that have been lost or delayed in the mail), or other business matters to the headquarters office. Back issues of **SCALE RAILS** are available while supplies last from the Kalmbach Memorial Library at Chattanooga — contact the library regarding availability and pricing.