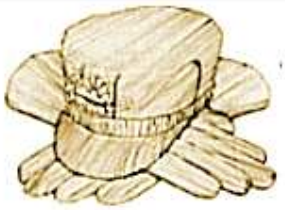


ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM REGULATIONS

MAY 2006

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Achievement Program (AP) is to allow the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) to give recognition to those members who have demonstrated **SUPERIOR** craftsmanship and technical skill as model railroaders and have given **SUPERIOR** service to the hobby and the NMRA.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Read the regulations carefully. Call or write the National AP Chair, Pat Harriman, MMR, who is listed in the front of the NMRA Bulletin and on the NMRA website. Pat will put you in contact with your Regional AP Chair. Request a copy of the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) form and guidance in preparing the documentation for the category involved. Also, request from your Regional AP Chair any forms that you might need. All AP regulations and associated forms are available on the NMRA web site "http:\\www.nmra.org".

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the NMRA to promote continuing interest and activity in all phases of the hobby of model railroading through the establishment of the AP. The AP provides for official recognition of superior achievement for the individual NMRA member in the areas of craftsmanship and service. This program has developed a large group of NMRA members who are willing to advise and assist all NMRA members in all aspects of the hobby. Participation in the AP is voluntary and is not a requirement for participation in any other phase of NMRA activity. Possession of any achievement certificate does not entitle its holder to any special consideration in matters pertaining to the NMRA.

DEFINITIONS

For definitions of the terms used in these regulations, please refer to the section entitled "DEFINITIONS" at the end of this document.

ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORIES

In order to acknowledge exceptional achievement in the many phases of scale model railroading, the following achievement categories have been established to encompass both the technical and service phases of the model railroad hobby.

RAILROAD EQUIPMENT

1. Master Builder - Motive Power
2. Master Builder - Cars

RAILROAD SETTING

3. Master Builder - Structures
4. Master Builder - Scenery

4a. Master Builder - Prototype Models

RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

5. Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
6. Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
7. Chief Dispatcher

SERVICE TO THE HOBBY AND THE NMRA

8. Association Official
9. Association Volunteer
10. Model Railroad Author

MASTER ACHIEVEMENT

Master Model Railroader (MMR)

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION

The requirements for each of the AP certificates are described in detail below. A member requesting an AP certificate must meet the following criteria.

- Be a current NMRA member at the time of requesting certification.

- Request certification on the official AP SOQ form and submit two copies of the completed form along with any other required documentation to the local AP representative or to the AP Chair of the Region in which the member currently resides.
  Any member who resides outside their home region for less than six months of the year, and who participates in the second region's contests but wants the Certificate credited to the "Home Region", can submit the SOQ to the second Region's AP Chair, with explanations.

- Submit a typed or legibly printed SOQ and the required supplementary attachments.

  The Association Official, Association Volunteer and MMR certificates specifically provide that the SOQs may be initiated by others.

- Include on or with the SOQ all of the following:

a) Evidence of technical or service accomplishment.

b) Attachments of all supplementary material necessary to fully meet the stated requirements of the category.
c) Attachment of Merit Award Certification forms if required.
d) Certification by the Regional AP Chair.

MASTER BUILDER MOTIVE POWER

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Build three scale models of railroad motive power, one of which must be scratchbuilt. Motive Power is defined as a locomotive or a self-propelled vehicle. To qualify as scratchbuilt, the motive power must contain the following scratchbuilt items as applicable:

   Steam Locomotives: frame, boiler, cab, tender frame, body, either valve gear or main and side driving rods.

   Other Motive Power: body, frame, cab, power truck frame, pantograph or trolley poles where appropriate.

   All models must be capable of self propulsion on track of the same gauge as the model. Power trains for all models may be commercial motors and gears.

   All models must be superdetailed either with scratchbuilt parts or with commercial parts as defined in the "DEFINITIONS" Section.

2. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with each of the three scale models of motive power either via an NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Award Judging.

3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

a) Attachment giving detailed descriptions of the models.
b) Identification of the scratchbuilt features.
c) List of all the commercial components appearing on each model.
d) The materials used in building the models.
e) Verification of the Merit Awards

MASTER BUILDER CARS

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Build eight operable scale models of railroad cars. There must be at least four different types of cars represented in the total of eight. One of these must be a passenger car and at least four must be scratchbuilt. The remainding four cars, if not scratch built, must be superdetailed either with scratch built parts or with commercial parts as defined in the "DEFINITIONS" section.

2. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with four of the above models either via an NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Award Judging.

3. Submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

   a) Attachment giving detailed descriptions of the models.
   b) Identification of the scratchbuilt features.
   c) List of all the commercial components appearing on each model.
   d) Materials used in building the models.
   e) Verification of the Merit Awards.

MASTER BUILDER STRUCTURES

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Build twelve scale structures. At least six different types of structures must be represented in the total. One must be a bridge or trestle. At least six must be scratchbuilt. The remaining six structures, if not scratchbuilt, must be superdetailed with scratchbuilt parts or commercial parts as defined in the “DEFINITIONS” section.

2. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with six of the above models, either via an NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Awards.

3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

   a) Attachment giving detailed descriptions of the models.
   b) Identification of the scratchbuilt features.
   c) List of all the commercial components appearing on each model.

d) The materials used in building the models.
e) Verification of the Merit Awards.

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Construct a completed section of a model railroad of at least sixty square feet in O scale, or forty-five square feet in S scale, or thirty-two square feet in HO scale, or eighteen square feet in N scale or other scales in proportional relationship to HO scale. This completed section must contain the necessary scenic elements of terrain, structures, background, lighting, and realism/conformity as combined to achieve a realistic effect using applicable NMRA standards. in that particular model railroad scene. The intent of this category is the prototypical rendering of the scenic elements from the ground up. The definitions of the various elements (which may be combined to comprise the setting for the model railroad) shall be:

   TERRAIN - The ground and all natural features such as rocks, water, trees, hills and depressions, as well as manmade features such as the railroad roadbed, cuts, fills, drainage ditches, embankments, streets and roads.

   STRUCTURES - Structures are considered from the standpoint of prototypical suitability, placement and appearance as scenic elements. (The quality of construction is covered under the Master Builder Structures category). Structures include: bridges, trestles, culverts, buildings and all other types of structures (towers, power lines, signs, fences, etc.), track and right-of-way appurtenances (such as turnout controls, signaling structures, crossing gates and shanties etc.), turntables and other service structures. The items described above are a few examples and additional features are encouraged.

   BACKGROUND - Treatment of wall, backdrop or ceiling to realistically depict depth and distance, horizon and sky.

   LIGHTING - Illumination effects from three aspects: railroad cars and signals, etc.; buildings, streets and roads, etc.; overall lighting effects - day and/or night. An entirely daylight scene is acceptable. This lighting information must be included in the material prepared for Section 4 below.

   REALISM/CONFORMITY - General overall impression that the scene is a believable, miniature representation of prototype railroad.

2. Prepare a set of photographs and a written description clearly describing the intended setting of the model railroad and the scenic details including towns or cities in the area being judged.

3. Prepare a description of the materials and methods of construction used in creating various features of terrain, background, and lighting.

4. Attach one copy of materials in Sections 2 & 3 to the SOQ for use by the judges in determining the effectiveness of the craftsmanship displayed by the member requesting certification.

5. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points on the section of layout being judged.

6. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) including the attachments for Sections 2 & 3 and the signed Merit Judging forms from Section 5.

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Construct an animated or static model of a prototype scene containing at least six models of prototype equipment or structures. At least four different types of models must be represented. They are: rolling stock, railroad structure, caboose or passenger car and a motive power. Any two of the six models must be scratchbuilt. The remainder must be superdetailed. Plans or photographs must be provided to verify the final prototypical appearance of each model and of the total scene.

2. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with the above scene.

3. Prepare a written description along with photographs, documented evidence and/or maps which will verify the actual prototype scene used as a basis for the modeled scene. Merit judging will follow the scoring schedule in the "DEFINITIONS" Section.

4. Provide color photos and a written description of materials and methods used to build the scene.

5. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

a) Attachments for Sections 2 & 3 above.
b) The signed Merit Judging forms from Section 2.

c) The supplemental material with the photographs of both the model and the prototype attached.

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Prepare one original scale drawing of a model railroad track plan identifying overall size, scale, track elevations, curve radii and turnout sizes. The plan must include: adequate terminal facilities for handling freight and/or passenger cars, storage and service of motive power, a minimum of one mainline passing siding and four switching locations (exclusive of yards, inter-changes, wyes and reversing loops), provision for turning motive power (except in switchback roads, trolley lines, etc.), provision for simultaneous operation of at least two mainline trains in either direction.

2. Construct and demonstrate the satisfactory operation of a completed section of the model railroad and trackwork described in Section 1. This section must contain at least twenty five linear feet of track in Z, N or TT scale, or fifty linear feet of track in HO or S scale, or seventy five linear feet of track in O scale, or one hundred linear feet of track in G or #1 scale, or other scales in proportional relationship to HO scale. Trackwork shall have appropriate ballast, drainage facilities and roadbed profile, and may contain spurs, yards, etc. Trackwork shall have examples of at least **SIX** of the following features:

- passing siding
- spur
- cross over
- reversing loop
- wye
- simple ladder
- compound ladder
- turntable
- transfer table
- super elevation
- simple overhead wire
- compound overhead wire
- scale track
- cog railway track
- coal dump truck
- ash pit
- service pit track
- grade elevation
- other _____

3. Construct scratchbuilt scale models of any three of the following for Merit Award judging and demonstrate their satisfactory operation:

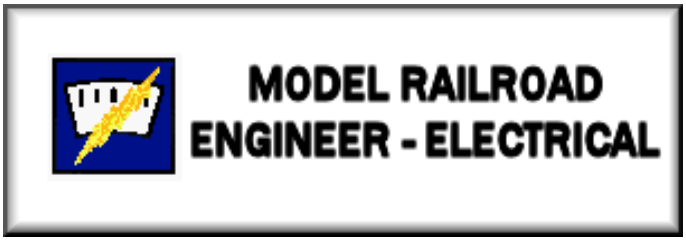
- turnout (point or stub)
- crossover
- double crossover
- single slip switch;
- double slip switch
- crossing
- gauntlet track
- gauntlet turnout
- dual gauge turnout
- gauge separation turnout
- double junction turnout
- three-way turnout
- spring switch
- operating switch in overhead wire
- other _____

Commercial frogs are **NOT** permitted in the three models. These models may be built and demonstrated as part of the layout or separately.

4. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points on the models in Section 3.

5. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

a) Attachment to the SOQ showing the track plan required in Section 1 above.
b) Description of the trackwork features, methods of construction and identification of commercial components used in Section 3.
c) Verification of the Merit Award
d) Witness Certification Form showing that each of the above models meets all applicable NMRA standards.



To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Construct and demonstrate on your own or a club layout, the satisfactory operation of an electrical control system on a model railroad capable of simultaneous and independent control of two mainline trains in either direction, and containing at least:

- For conventional DC wiring (non-command-control), five electrical blocks that can be controlled independently. For command control wiring (DCC, TMCC, and others), sufficient gaps and switches to

maintain polarity, phase if needed, and troubleshooting.
- one mainline passing siding
- one of the following: reversing loop, wye, turntable or transfer table
- one yard with a minimum of three tracks and a switching lead independent of the mainline
- facilities for the storing of at least two unused motive power units
- one power supply with protective devices (short indicator or circuit breaker) to ensure safe operation.

2. Wire and demonstrate the electrical operation of at least three of the following items:

- turnout
- crossing
- crossover
- double crossover
- single slip switch
- gauge separation turnout
- double junction turnout
- three way turnout
- gauntlet turnout
- spring switch
- operating switch in overhead wire

Operating third rail (either center or outside) powered layouts may be considered for ALL aspects of the AP.

3. Wire and demonstrate the satisfactory electrical operation of at least three of the following features:

- Electrical turnout position indication on a control panel or at track side for a minimum of four turnouts
- Track occupancy indication on a control panel or at track side for a minimum of five blocks
- Cab control, making provision for connection of at least two power supplies to a minimum of five blocks as the trains progress
- Engine terminal including an electrically powered turntable or a transfer table, a minimum of three stall tracks and at least two "blocked storage sections" for parking locomotives outside the stall area
- Two turnout junctions with electrical interlocking and protecting trackside signals
- Constant intensity lighting
- Electronic throttle with inertia and braking provisions
- Grade crossing with electrically actuated warning indication
- Two-way block signaling with automatic train detection for at least five blocks
- Operating overhead wire and collecting current with either trolley poles or pantographs or both
- Installation of an advanced electronic and/or computer control for the model railroad
- Design, installation and operation of animated mechanical and/or electrical displays
- Design, installation and operation of mechanical and/or electrical layout lighting displays
- Installation of a command control receiver in a locomotive. Modifications or additions to the device's wiring are required. Installing a plug-equipped decoder into a manufactured prewired socket is not sufficient.
- Installation of a command control throttle buss line around a layout capable of handling at least two throttles at three or more separate locations

Commercially assembled complete units are not acceptable in items below:

- Construction and installation of a sound system
- Construction and installation of a signaling system
- Development and installation of a CTC system
- Installation and operation of an onboard video system
- Computer generated displays of block detection information
- Hardwired or stored control program for operation of the railroad
- Development and demonstration of a computer to railroad interface
- Other _____

The use of advanced power supply, train control, track wiring and track control methods shall not be restricted by the definitions in these minimum requirements.

4. Prepare a schematic drawing of the propulsion circuitry of the model railroad in Section 1 showing the gaps, blocks, feeders, speed and direction control, electrical switches and power supplies. Prepare schematic drawings identifying the wiring and components of the six items in Sections 2 & 3.

5. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

a) Attachment showing the track plan required in Section 1.
b) Description of the trackwork features, method of construction and identification of commercial components used in Section 2 & 3.
c) The signed Witness Certification form showing that each of the above items are operational and meet all applicable NMRA Standards.

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Must have participated in the operation of a model railroad, either home or club, for no less than fifty hours. A

minimum of ten hours must be served in each of three of the five categories listed below, one of which must be DISPATCHER.

They are:

- **ENGINEER - MAINLINE FREIGHT, PASSENGER, OR WAYFREIGHT**
- **YARDMASTER, STATION MASTER**
- **HOSTLER, POWER DESK**
- **TOWERMAN, TRAFFIC MANAGER, ROADMASTER**
- **DISPATCHER**

This experience shall be accumulated on one or more model railroads having at least two mainline trains plus yard switching in simultaneous operation. Some system of freight and passenger train and car movements, including road switching, shall be used for controlling train activity.

The category descriptions are as follows:

ENGINEER; PASSENGER OR FREIGHT shall run his or her train in a manner that simulates the prototype, following the rules of the model railroad being used, operating according to the signal system (if present) or by direct instruction of the Dispatcher.

WAYFREIGHT ENGINEER will meet the requirements of Mainline Engineer. In addition he or she shall perform all required switching with approval from the Dispatcher in a manner to not adversely affect the overall railroad schedule or operations.

YARDMASTER runs the freight yard. He or she makes up trains with the appropriate cars in the desired numbers to have trains ready when the timetable or Dispatcher requires them. Generally, the Yardmaster operates the switch engine but in a large yard could direct several yard engineers.

STATIONMASTER is in charge of the passenger station and all passenger switching. He or she makes up trains with the appropriate consists so the trains are ready when the timetable and Dispatcher requires them. Terminating trains are broken down appropriately and the cars serviced and stored as needed. Through train switching is accomplished.

HOSTLER shall run the engine facilities. He or she shall have each locomotive facing the correct direction, double headed or lashed up, ready for the Engineer to easily leave the engine area. Service to the locomotives shall be simulated. Returning locomotives are placed in their appropriate stalls or tracks. On layouts with advanced control systems, the Hostler can handle the assignment of locomotives to the appropriate Engineer's throttle.

POWER DESK decides what is the correct motive power for each train and assigns throttle control to the motive power. When the assignment is finished, he or she returns the control of that motive power back to the Hostler throttle or to off.

TOWERMAN operates one or more towers (control panels) on a layout. He or she sets up the appropriate route at the correct time under the direction of the timetable or Dispatcher. He or she reports train passings to the Dispatcher if required.

TRAFFIC MANAGER determines which cars go and come from each industry, and the amount and location of traffic. He or she specifies the route and may create a computer program to do this automatically.

ROAD MASTER is the operating session troubleshooter and makes repairs. He or she keeps things moving smoothly. He or she can take track in and out of service.

DISPATCHER coordinates all train movements, either by sequence, timetable and fast clock or other operating system.

2. The use of a computer to accomplish the following requirements is acceptable.

   The applicant shall also do the following:

a) Prepare a schematic drawing of a model railroad layout meeting the operating conditions described in Section 1 and indicate all pertinent simulated distances.

b) Develop a timetable appropriate to this model railroad, simulating prototype time and covering a period of eight hours or more, during which time at least three scheduled mainline trains move in each direction.

c) Develop an operating train chart (graph) which interprets the above schedule for timetable operation of the model railroad. Indicate at least one train meet on the schematic drawing required in 2a above. Show the position of the train(s) involved and describe the action, giving pertinent time and movement data to effect the meet.

d) Develop or adapt a system of operation for the layout in Section 1 above, including all the necessary forms and explanations of their use for controlling car movements, train makeup and operation in a prototypical manner.

3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following:

   a) Attachment of the forms and drawings in Sect. 2
   b) Description of the jobs held and an approximation of the number of hours accrued in each position.
   c) The signed witnessed Certificate of Operation form showing that all the requirements have been met and that the member requesting certification has operated a model railroad in a prototypical manner.

   These requirements can be met on one or more model railroad layouts, either privately owned or club layout(s). The Witness Form is available from your Region or Division AP Chair.

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Serve in an office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Director and have completed satisfactory service in one of the following:

   - At least one year in the office at the National level.
   - At least two years in the office(s) at the Regional level, of which one year shall be that of Region President or Trustee.
   - At least three years in the office(s) at the Regional level if other than that of Region President or Trustee (Note that Trustee position was eliminated in January of 2005 when the new regulations were formally adopted; therefore only services as a Trustee before this date can earn credit.).
   - Division Superintendents or Directors who serve as voting members of the Regional Board of Directors, either by election, appointment or automatic by-law provision shall be eligible for the Certificate on the same basis as any other Regional Board member.

2. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) listing the offices held with dates (which must be a matter of record) and containing the signature of a qualified witness to the record (usually the Region President or Secretary).

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Serve actively on NMRA committees (National, Regional or Divisional) long enough to accumulate at least sixty certified Time Units (TU).

- Active satisfactory service as a General Chair of a National Committee shall accumulate at the rate of 4 TU per month.
- Active satisfactory service as a National Committee Chair shall accumulate at the rate of 3 TU per month.
- Active satisfactory service as a Regional Committee Chair or a National Committee member shall accumulate at the rate of 2 TU per month.
- Active satisfactory service as a Region Committee member, a Division Official or Committee Chair shall accumulate at the rate of 1 TU per month.
- Active satisfactory service as a Division Committee or Board member shall accumulate at the rate of 1/2 TU per month.
- Editors of an NMRA publication shall receive credit for their service at the rate appropriate for committee chairs.
- Service as a Division Officer or Director (other than at the Region level) shall be credited at the same rate as that for service on Regional Committees.
- Division Superintendent (President) at the rate for a Regional Committee Chair. All other Division Officers will accumulate at the rate for a Regional Committee member.
- Editors of 100% NMRA Clubs, having ten or more members, may earn one point per issue of the Club Newsletter, providing it is four pages or more. All Newsletters must have four issues on file in the NMRA Library, edited by the person applying, before points will be considered for credit.
- Official judges at an NMRA - sponsored model contest shall be given time units for such service at the contest only, not monthly, as a one-time service credit per contest as follows:

  National Contest Judge = 3 Time units
  Regional Contest Judge = 2 Time Units
  Divisional Contest Judge = 1 Time Unit

- Individuals (and their crews) who open their home or club layout for tours in conjunction with NMRA conventions or other NMRA sponsored events earn credit of 3 TU/day that the layout is open for viewing to a maximum of 12 TU for a National event, 6 TU for a Regional event or 3 TU for a Divisional event.
- Individuals who participate in modular layouts in conjunction with NMRA Divisions or at NMRA sponsored events earn credit of 3 TU/day for each day the layout is open for viewing at the event to a maximum of 12 TU for a National event, 6 TU for a Regional event or 3 TU for a Divisional event.
- Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Counselors who are NMRA members can earn 1 TU per month and 1 TU per Scout that qualifies. This credit is retroactive with no time limit for those who have served as Counselors in the past provided that they were also NMRA members during the time of service.

- A live clinic that is presented more than once earns Association Volunteer credits for each additional (the first presentation is credited toward Author) presentation at the following schedule:
  National Clinic – 3 credits
  Regional or Division clinic – 2 points
  Regional or Division clinic – 2 points

2. Certification of accomplishment shall be by the committee Chair in the case of committee members and by the appointing officer in the case of a committee Chair. Certification of active service as Chair of a convention sponsoring group shall be by the Region or National President as appropriate. Current Regional Secretaries or the National Secretary may certify when the appointed officer is not available or when many positions will require several signatures.

3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) itemizing evidence of the completion of the above requirements.

   In case of exceptionally outstanding service, the Chair of a committee or the appointing officer, in the case of a committee Chair, may initiate the SOQ for a member whom he or she knows to have met the requirements. However, the member must sign the "Member's Statement and Agreement".

To qualify for this certificate you must:

1. Prepare and submit material on any subject of model railroading. Points will be given for any full page or approximately equivalent space of text or photo articles for any single feature according to the schedule below. Any number of points may be earned in a single issue of a commercial magazine. Articles accepted for publication may be claimed but copies of the article and the acceptance receipt from the magazine are required as proof.

   An accumulation of forty-two points in any combination of material is required for this certificate. No more than twenty-one points may be accumulated from Division or NMRA Club publications. Acceptance of Division or NMRA club credits is determined by the AP Department Vice-Chair.

   Points will be awarded for any articles uploaded to public electronic forums. Material that has been accepted for publication in a print medium does not qualify for additional points. In addition, files that may be uploaded in several formats only qualify for one upload. Submissions to a public electronic forum earn points as for an "NMRA Region" publication. All photos, drawings, maps, etc. are treated as 1/3 page, earning 2/3 points each, regardless of size. A maximum of 21 points can be claimed for uploads. A hard copy of the upload and URL must be submitted as proof.

Point Credits Per Full Page

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Item	General Publication	NMRA National	NMRA Region	NMRA Division	100% NMRA Club
Book 64+ pages	48 (24)	-	-	-	-
Feature Article	3 (1.5)	3 (1.5)	2	1	0.5
Photos or Drawings	3 (1.5)	3 (1.5)	2	1	0.5
Regular Column	3	3	2	1	0.5
Scale Drawing of Prototype	6	6	4	2	-
Scale Drawing of Track Plan	3	3	2	1	-
NMRA Data Sheet One Subject	-	6 (3)	-	-	-
NMRA RP Sheet One subject		6 (3)	-	-	-
*Live Clinic	-	6	4	2	-

- The live clinic must be prepared and presented by the member requesting the certificate and it must be at least 30 minutes in duration and have handouts
- The numbers in parenthesis are given for collaboration with another person, provided that the work done amounts to the equivalent of 40% of the total effort.
- Points can also be earned for the production an presentation of a Tape/Slide (T/S) or Video clinic (including finished script) on any subject of Model Railroading .

Points Awarded for T/S or Video ClinicS

Duration	Points
15 min.	6 (3.0)
20 min.	9 (4.5)
25 min.	12 (6.0)
30 min.	15 (7.5)
35 min.	18 (9.0)
40 min.	21 (10.5)
45 min. or more	24 (12.0)

2. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include a list of the material claimed and/or clinics giving the subject matter, name of the publication or place of presentation, the dates therein and the handout sheet(s). The number of point credits claimed for each item must be shown.

An NMRA member qualifies as a **MASTER MODEL RAILROADER** when he or she has obtained at least seven of the eleven Certificates of Achievement provided that he or she has earned at least one Certificate of Achievement in each of the four areas of the Regulations.

A Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) must be prepared and submitted to the AP Chair (or Divisional AP representative) in the Region in which the member resides. The MMR SOQ must be signed by both the member and the AP Chair of the Region in which the member resides and mailed directly to the National AP Chair. The Region Trustee or President may also sign.

DEFINITIONS

CONTEST AWARDS

Each contest model at any level of NMRA Sponsored competition that receives 87.5 points and has been evaluated using NMRA contest rules may be used to satisfy the Merit Award requirements for Motive Power, Cars and Structures.

MERIT AWARDS

Merit Awards are special Awards which are sponsored by the AP. They may be granted by either the official judges at National, Regional or Divisional model contests, or by two or more special judges appointed by the Region or Division AP Chair to view and judge the models of the member requesting certification.

Merit Award judging of models on layouts is valid only on the official AP Merit Award Certificate Judging forms obtainable from the Region AP Chair.

SCRATCHBUILT

A model is considered “scratchbuilt” if at least 90% of the model’s pieces/parts (other than those items specifically exempted in the list below) are fabricated by the modeler. This is a quantitative assessment based on the number of pieces with no weight given to complexity. This is a separate determination from the scratchbuilding score.

- Motor
- Gears
- Drivers and wheels
- Couplers
- Light bulbs
- Trucks
- Bell
- Marker and classification lights
- Valve gear
- Car brake fittings
- Basic wood, metal and plastic shapes

If some of the exempted parts are also scratch built, the modeler may qualify for Bonus Points (see definition in the general section).

The term "scratchbuilt" carries the implication that the builder alone has accomplished all of the necessary layout and fabrication which establish the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the scale model.

SUPERDETAILED

To be considered superdetailed, it is necessary that a model have considerably more detail of excellent quality than is usually expected. The quality of the detail is of more importance than is the quantity. The applicant may qualify with superior craftsman kits providing that, in the opinion of the Region AP Chair, real individual craftsmanship is demonstrated.

Models falling within the following categories may also be considered as "Superdetailed":

- Cross-kit models
- Modified kit models
- Parts built models
- Extensively altered assembled models; e.g., to different prototype. In addition, these models are to have more detail and to be of Merit Award quality.

Judging Factors For Motive Power, Cars, Structures & Civil

Judging Factors	Motive Power Cars, Structures	Civil
Construction	0-40	0-40
Detail	0-20	0-20
Conformity	0-25	0-30
Finish & Lettering	0-25	0-10
Scratchbuilding	0-15	0-25
Total	125	125

Judging Factors For Scenery & Prototype Models

Judging Factors	Scenery	Prototype Models
Terrain	0-35	0-35
Structures	0-20	0-35
Background	0-25	0-15
Lighting	0-20	0-5
Realism/Conformity	0-25	0-35
Total	125	125

WITNESSES

For those categories which require that someone act as a witness or a judge to the accomplishments of the member requiring certification, a qualified witness shall be:

- Past or present National or Regional Officers.
- Past or present National, Regional, or Divisional Contest or Achievement Program Chairs or AP committee members.
- NMRA members holding the Certificate.
- NMRA members, appointed by the Region or Division AP Chair as committee members, judges or witnesses.

All witnesses must be current NMRA members and put their NMRA number on the witness form.

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the Regional and Divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratchbuilding and superdetailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the Divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the Divisional Chair. The Divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the Regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.

Qualifications Checklist

1. **Rolling Stock** (Motive Power & Cars):
   - Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits.
2. **Model Railroad Setting** (Structures & Scenery)
   - Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.
   - Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.
3. **Engineering** (Civil & Electrical)
   - Three types of trackage required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.
   - All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command control).
   - Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

FINALLY

Contact your Region or Division AP Chair for more information on the AP. His or her name and address is listed in your Region Newsletter. He or she has a supply of SOQs, Merit Judging Forms and Witness Certification Forms. He or she will be happy to assist you to participate in the AP and in obtaining your Certificates of Achievement.

We, the AP Department, invite you to start participating. We are sure you will enjoy the experience.

HAPPY MODELING!