



NMRA BULLETIN

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Dave Roeder Earns MMR 373

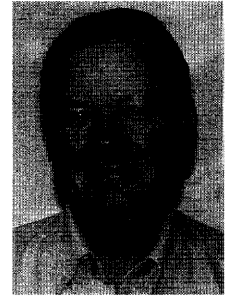
Unlike most MMR candidates, I did not start out in Lionel or any toy trains. In 1958 when I was 14, I started building plastic model cars. I am still building them, but I am also a model railroader in HO scale. I guess you could say I am a modeler first and a model railroader second. My first layout was in N scale in 1969. It was in the basement of our first apartment. We moved to our home in 1971 where I built two practice HO-scale railroads as well as a 1/24 scale slot car track. By the 1980s I was designing and building slot car chassis, modifying plastic model cars and kitbashing railroad rolling stock for the Frisco first generation diesel era. After the slot car track was removed, I added on to the HO railroad until 1991 when I decided to get rid of the whole thing and start over from scratch. I bought all of the Kalmbach books and spent 6 months planning and drawing the Webster Groves and Fenton Railroad. The Burlington Northern in St. Louis, MO was now my focus. Drawings were complete in 1992 and construction began immediately. I worked alone 15 to 22 hours

each week using the buildings from my old layout, but little else. It took me over 6 years to get the railroad up to where I could begin to have operating sessions. I am one of those lone wolf modelers, so I did not join the NMRA Gateway Division in St. Louis, Mo., until 1998.

The railroad was completed in time for the 2001 NMRA national convention in St. Louis, MO. That was one of my goals; another was to get an article published in *Model Railroader*. That turned out to be almost as difficult as the construction. I wanted to write the article and take the pictures. The editors at *Model Railroader* were very picky about my photography. I ended up teaching myself how to take quality model photos and in the process spent a small fortune on 35 mm film. The article finally appeared in January of 2005.

Fast forward to November 2005 at the Gateway Division meet. Don Taschner our AP chair, urged me to enter the model contest. I entered a scratchbuilt model of the Webster Groves Frisco depot built from styrene.

Don mentioned that the forms for contest judging were on the Web, as well as the information on the AP program. I downloaded the contest information and the AP introduction. At the divisional meet my Webster Groves depot won two awards, so I started reading about the AP program.



In January of 2006 I spent 3 1/2 weeks gathering data and filling out AP paperwork. I discovered all my years of model building could be documented and used to achieve the scenery, structures and electrical engineering certifications.

My first AP award was Author. This was the easiest one because I had been writing articles and presenting clinics since 1999.

BULLETIN BOARD

Achievement Program

NMRA AP Certificates

Report for March 2006

*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

Golden Spike

- Robert Brown, Bray Park, Australia
- David Howarth, West Pymble, Australia
- Denis Lane, Morningside, Australia
- Walter Palmer, Sawtell, Australia
- Dan Pickard, Geelong West, Australia
- David Kerns, Tallahassee, FL

Master Builder - Motive Power

- David Bartz, Maryland Heights, MO
- Marion Brasher, Spring Valley, IL
- William Brown, Jamesville, NY

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- Grant McAdam, Ormond, Australia*
- Rodney Smith, Baulkham Hills, Australia*

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- Denis Lane, Morningside, Australia
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- Rodney Smith, Baulkham Hills, Australia
- Mark Ward, Toowoomba, Australia

Master Builder - Prototype Modeler

None this month

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

David Greer, Lexington, KY

Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

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Master Model Railroader

- David Bartz, Maryland Heights, MO
- Marion Brasher, Spring Valley, IL
- William Brown, Jamesville, NY

Membership Thermometer

	Total	Count Change
Apr. 2005	19,284	.2
May 2005	19,404	.120
Jun. 2005	19,471	.67
Jul. 2005	19,389	-(82)
Aug. 2005	18,654	-(735)
Sep. 2005	19,298	.644
Oct. 2005	19,352	.54
Nov. 2005	19,399	.47
Dec. 2005	19,337	-(62)
Jan. 2006	19,579	.242
Feb. 2006	19,430	-(149)
Mar. 2006	19,442	.12
Apr. 2006	19,511	.69

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – CONTINUED

The AP program requires detailed documentation of your work. One of the best tools for this is the home computer. I spent the first month creating track and electrical schematics, writing text, printing photos and downloading information. This is a good example of how technology can make the job a lot less time-consuming.

The MMR certification is a nice way to get national recognition for your years of effort in the hobby. The program is set up to make you reach into your skill sets and come up with some new ones in order to achieve the requirements. I found the research, design and construction of HO_n3 freight cars to be very interesting. This required a section of HO n3 handlaid track and the need to get up to speed on NMRA HO_n3 standards.

I believe I may have set some sort of record for getting the MMR certification. I began in January, 2006, and the notification was dated May of 2006.

I hold AP awards in Author, Scenery, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Structures, Cars and Dispatch. ■

