

NMRA BULLETIN

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2015

GOLDEN SPIKE

Southeastern Region

Peter Banks, Lynn Haven, Florida
Robert Cottone, Palm City, Florida

Sunshine Region

Jim Davis, Stuart, Florida

MASTER BUILDER — MOTIVE POWER

Pacific Southwest Region

Gary Butts, Huntington Beach, California

MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

Lone Star Region

Mickey Taylor, Bridge City, Texas

Mid-Central Region

John Hemsath, Bay Village, Ohio

Midwest Region

Gary Loiselle, Rockford, Illinois
Emory Luebke, Greenville, Wisconsin

Northeastern Region

Keith Shoneman, Acton, New York

Southeastern Region

Reed Ostrander, Navarre, Florida

MASTER BUILDER — PROTOTYPE MODELS

Lone Star Region

Chuck Lind, MMR, Navasota, Texas

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — CIVIL

Midwest Region

Emory Luebke, Greenville, Wisconsin

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL

Lone Star Region

Gert Muller, Murphy, Texas

Mid-Central Region

Daniel Mulhearn, Pipestem, West Virginia
Tom Bensberg, Lexington, Kentucky

Midwest Region

Jeremy Bubb, Vermont, Illinois

North Central Region

Bruce VanHuis, Byron Center, Michigan

Northeastern Region

Drew James, Baldwinsville, New York

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Midwest Region

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North Central Region

David Capron, Suttons Bay, Michigan

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Mid-Continent Region

Benjamin Merta, Marion, Iowa

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

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Pacific Southwest Region

Gary Butts, Huntington Beach, California
Peter Steinmetz, Carlsbad, California

Southeastern Region

James Bando, Woodstock, Georgia
Sally Bando, Woodstock, Georgia
Royal Bruce, Decatur, Georgia

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Northeastern Region

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Pacific Northwest Region

Mark Dance, Vancouver, BC

Pacific Southwest Region

Gary Butts, Huntington Beach, California

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Gary Butts, Huntington Beach, California

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

2015 ELECTION RESULTS

President: **Charlie Getz, HLM**

VP Administration: **Clark Kooning, HLM, MMR**

VP Special Projects: **Gerry Leone, HLM, MMR**

At Large North American Director: **Peter Youngblood, MMR**

Eastern District Director: **Joe Gelmini, MMR**

Pacific District Director: **Mike Bartlett**

ANNUAL MEETINGS

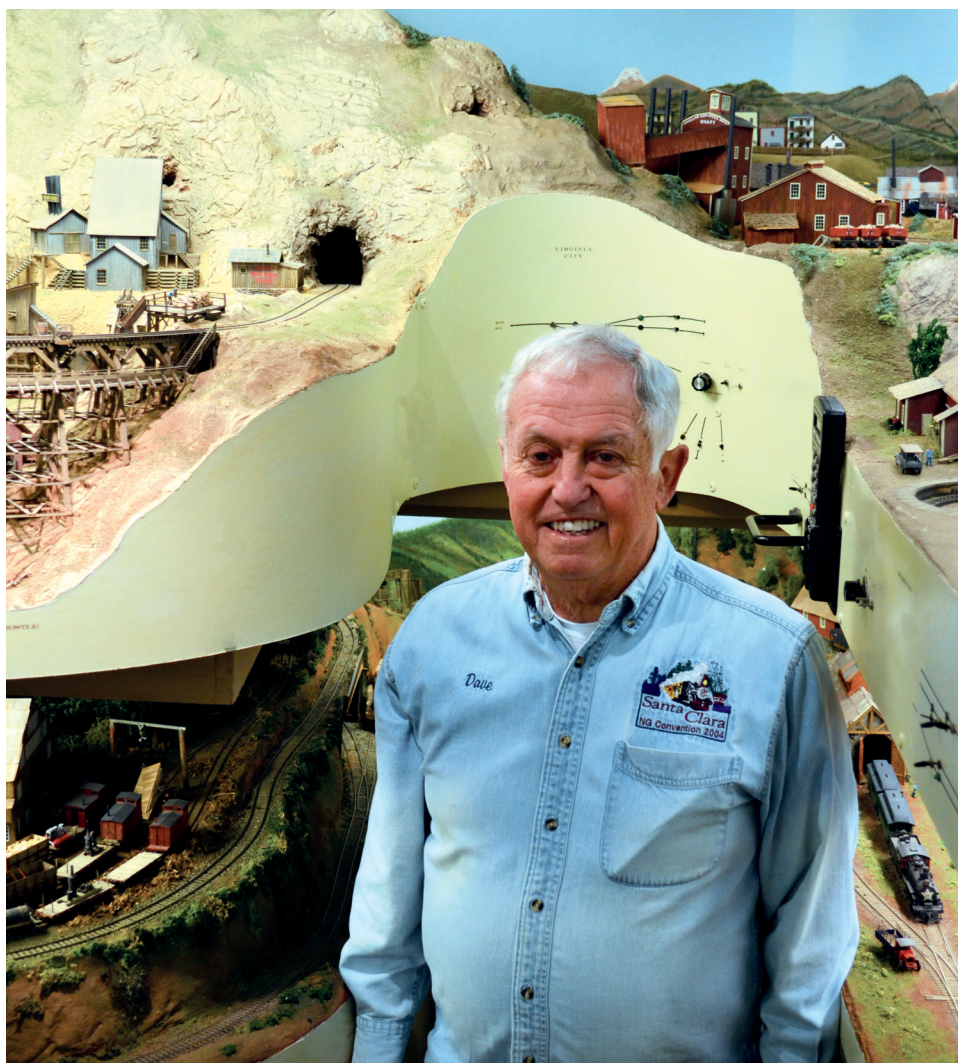
The public observation part of the Board of Directors meeting is on **Saturday, August 22, starting at 9AM** and going all day. The BOD will also meet on Sunday if needed. Any member is welcome to attend and will likely be asked to sit around the room, as there will be room at the table only for the BOD members. The Annual NMRA Business Meeting will be **Thursday, August 27, from 8.30–9:30PM** in the Weidler Room. Check the convention timetable for updates.

DAVE CONNERY EARNS MMR #551

I grew up in a railroad family — every male on my mother's side worked for one of the railroads in the Albany, New York, area. Grandfather, uncles, and cousins served as railroad blacksmiths, conductors, engineers, trainmasters, railway postal clerks, freight clerks, and assistant chief engineers — a little bit of everything. For the two and a half years before I entered college, I served as a messenger in the telegraph office at Albany's Union Station. Talk at family gatherings was invariably railroad talk.

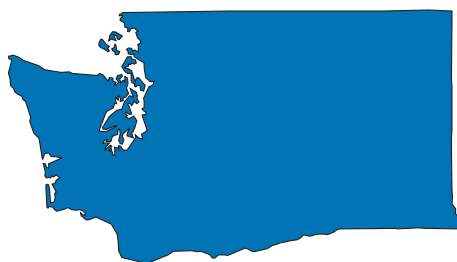
As a boy, I had an American Flyer set, which gave me an early introduction to two-rail DC and an opportunity to try my hand at building various add-on details to the 4x8 board in our basement. I even won a prize for an HO Santa Fe caboose I entered into a local PTA crafts contest. I set modeling aside when the opportunity to work for the railroad appeared.

Twenty years later and on the other side of the country in California, I became re-interested in the hobby when I served as a Cubmaster for my son's Pack. One month, our theme was railroads and my son and I enjoyed a joint project. At the month's end, he was ready to move on to something else, but stirrings of interest from years past would not let go of me.



Over the next few years, I built a couple of simple kits and then decided to build a 5x9-foot free-standing layout in our garage. While building that layout, I started reading model railroad magazines. In early 1981, I joined the NMRA, and what had been an interest became a passion. The next few years involved a couple of local home moves and several uncompleted starts at layouts, but provided me a rich opportunity to develop a concept of what I wanted to model. Layout tours and clinics at PCR Regional Conventions and Coast Division Meets filled me with ideas and information, but most importantly, I met many other great modelers.

In 1985, we moved to a new home. After six months dedicated to getting settled in, I began building a room inside half of our two-car garage — a room designed to seal out dust and provide a good environment for the layout. I refined the layout plan as the room began to take shape.



The guy that dispatched your railroad moved to

I built framing and a raised floor and installed insulation, wallboard walls, ceiling, lighting, and wiring. What emerged was a two-level, around-the-walls HO design with the levels connected by a standard gauge two-track helix in one corner and an HOn3 helix about opposite. I model the Virginia & Truckee (upper level) and the Sierra Railway (lower level). Building the layout has been an anchor of how I enjoy my free time. The only thing I would think of changing on the layout are the helices — I never use them and run the railroad as two separate entities, which, of course, they were.

Progress on the layout was slow at first, but I took an early retirement at the end of 1991 from the telephone company, and progress picked up. Friendships with other NMRA members blossomed rather quickly, and soon we had organized a weekly round-robin group to help with each other's layouts. The group continues to meet weekly 22 years later. Although many members have changed due to moves and terminal illnesses, others have joined in, and we remain good friends, enjoying many wonderful memories, developing our modeling skills and building layouts.

At retirement, I also became involved as a volunteer at Railtown 1897 State Historic Park. I continue to work there as a car host on the steam trains, a guide for the shop tours, and a trainer for incoming volunteers. I found lots of volunteer opportunities in my local Division and Region, and in 1994, I earned the Volunteer Achievement Certificate. About that time, I realized how much I enjoyed sharing what I knew through articles and clinics, and the Author Certificate came next. Over the years, duty as Editor of the PCR *Branch Line*, service for several terms as Coast Division Director and as Pacific Coast Region Vice-president kept me deeply involved with the local organization. These duties also led to roles on numerous conventions, both regional and the 2000 National, and always expanded the ring of friendships among other modelers. I was on the 2004 National Narrow Gauge Convention staff, and in 2006, my wife Emma and I co-chaired the National Garden Railway Convention. (Did I mention we created a garden railway modeling the West Side Lumber Company in 1:20.3 scale beginning in 1998?) Spending several years as one of the founders of the Yosemite

Short Line On30 layout gave me a chance for some 1:48 scale modeling.

Of special note are my friendships with key members of the round-robin group. Brad Lloyd and I have partnered in providing eight different Regional and National Convention Clinics and several magazine articles on various aspects of scenic modeling. Al Massi and his amazing skill in brass locomotive rebuilding and finishing opened my eyes to how well these models could operate and look. Denise Showalter and Al Massi became the artists for my layout backdrop. Denise, Al, Jim Long, and Rod Smith all became real soul mates during the years of spending great times together. As my modeling projects developed and skills improved, the layout gradually became more and more complete. I realized most of the requirements for other Achievement Certificates had been completed. I finally decided it was time to finish the paperwork before fate intervened. I thank Coast Superintendent Frank Markovich, MMR, for his encouragement; Coast Achievement Chair Kermit Paul, MMR, for his visits to evaluate various modeling requirements; and to PCR Achievement Chair Jack Burgess, MMR, for his help in getting the paperwork processed.

The Achievement Program has certainly spurred me to go an extra step on hundreds of models over the years with the thought that someday I might use that model for an Achievement Certificate. The

process improved my modeling skills, resulting in better models (most of which were never used for Merit Awards nor inspected by the keen eye of the evaluator, but resulted in a much nicer layout). Being recognized through the Achievement Program is special, and joining a group of such outstanding modelers as MMRs is inspiring.

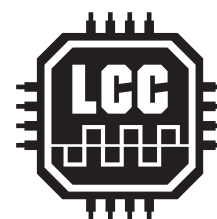
The most important aspect of being an NMRA member is the hundreds of great friendships I have developed with other NMRA members all over the world. Of course, my layout, modeling, and involvement in NMRA activities would not be possible without my wonderful wife Emma's understanding and support. We share a love for international travel, gardening, and nature. She has always accepted my messes, piles of stuff in every closet, drawers crammed with tools, and calendar full of railroading activities. She understood my need to inspect dozens of "off the beaten path" sites — "because someday I might want to model it." What a great hobby we have.

AP Certificates — Dave Connerly

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



No problem



Layout Command Control

The new NMRA standard lets you control anything from anywhere