

NMRA BULLETIN

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2017 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
2017—Orlando, Florida • July 30, 2017 - August 6, 2017 • <http://nmra2017orlando.org>
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org

• 2018—Kansas City, MO • 2019—Salt Lake City, UT • 2020—St. Louis, MO

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

DECEMBER 2016

GOLDEN SPIKE

Pacific Northwest Region

Larry Sloan, Kent, Washington
Pete Vassler, Hillsboro, Oregon

Rocky Mountain Region

Thomas Gillen, Evergreen, Colorado
Alan Ginther, Northglenn, Colorado

MASTER BUILDER – STRUCTURES

Southeastern Region

Greg Williams, Highland, North Carolina

MASTER BUILDER – SCENERY

Pacific Northwest Region

Larry Sloan, Kent, Washington
David Yadock, Renton, Washington

MASTER BUILDER – PROTOTYPE

MODELS

Niagara Frontier Region

Grant Knowles, Ottawa, Ontario

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – CIVIL

Pacific Northwest Region

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Rocky Mountain Region

Jim Wanlass, Lehi, Utah

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ELECTRICAL

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Doug Auburg, Battle Ground, Washington

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David Yadock, Renton, Washington

Rocky Mountain Region

Dean Dicerkhoof, Golden, Colorado

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Grant Knowles, Ottawa, Ontario, MMR
584

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 fjkoch@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

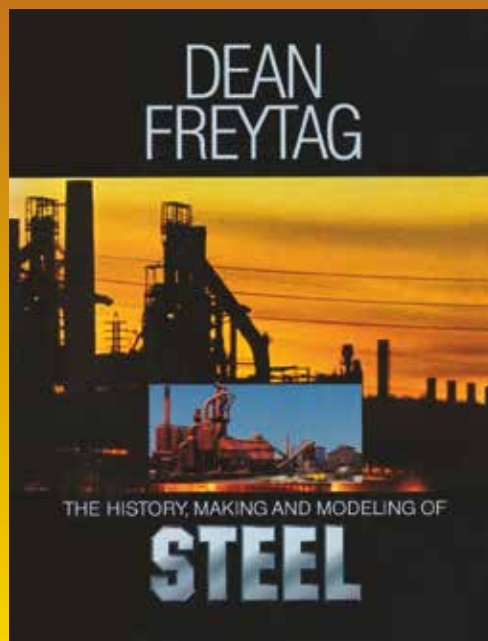
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JIM WANLASS EARNS MMR #585

From as early as he can remember, Jim Wanlass has been interested in trains. Jim remembers going to train shops as a boy with his dad and still has some of the pieces to the Tyco Silver Streak set from those days. As happens with most, his college years were devoted to other activities, but after college, he started a “serious” 4x8 layout that continued during his early years of marriage. In 2000, he attended his first NMRA event in San Jose, California, which just happened to be a National Convention! He was overwhelmed by how many others were so passionate about model trains! Armed with knowledge, he started a small switching layout that expanded on the Timesaver theme, adding various industries. Around that time, he was bitten by the “narrow gauge bug” and added some dual-gauge track when building his switching layout, which he still has.

When he and his young family moved to Utah, Jim dismantled the 4x8 layout with the hopes of having a better, larger layout with new skills and lessons learned over the years. He made some progress on the new layout, but one thing that became quickly evident is that just because he had more space to model didn't mean he had more time.

The new home in Utah came with a much larger backyard and his wife giving him the go ahead to build a ride-on train! For eleven of the last 13 years, his family has opened up their backyard to the neighborhood on Halloween for a “haunted train

ride.” Decorations, music and train rides have given many kids “their favorite Halloween tradition” growing up.

Jim first heard about the Achievement Program at the 2000 National Convention, but having a young family made it difficult to fit the meetings into his schedule. Eventually, a new 100% NMRA club was formed that met on Saturday afternoons. With his Saturday mornings booked with soccer games and dance performances, afternoons were perfect. In February 2012, Jim received his Golden Spike Award and began working on his AP requirements in earnest. In January 2017, he turned in his final paperwork and became Master Model Railroader No. 585!

Around the time he got involved in the new club and became serious about earning his MMR, Jim once again started designing a new 4x8 layout with a 2x4 extension. This layout gives him the opportunity to “railfan” his layout and do some switching moves in the yard. In addition, it was perfect for the requirements for both the Model Railroad Engineer – Civil and Electrical Certificates. After earning those certificates, he was very pleased and satisfied at how well the layout is now running.

Having served as a Cubmaster and Boy Scout Leader for the past nine years, Jim sees the similarities in the Scouting program and the NMRA's AP. For example, in both, you are recognized for hard work, including earning Merit Awards (like Merit Badges),

other miscellaneous requirements not tied to an award, earning certificates (similar to rank advancements), required hours in one or more service positions (in Scouts service to others is important and required), and the biggie, Master Model Railroader (MMR is the Eagle Scout of the model railroading community.) The journey does not end there. One can continue earning awards in both, but it's also important to help others on their journey. While working on his MMR requirements, Jim has spent just as much effort helping “his boys” advance in Scouting. In fact, his son is only a few requirements away from earning his Eagle Scout.

A friend of Jim's once said, “I thought I was looking at a real building that was somehow shrunk down to fit into my hands!” It is this realism that Jim strives for, and he is known for his attention to details in other areas besides model railroading. He wants his work to be believable. In the end, though, what matters to him is having fun, and he also enjoys seeing what others have created.

One of the greatest things about model railroading is its community. Jim enjoys his “train time,” but has come to realize that sharing it with others can take the enjoyment to the next level. “Being satisfied with your work is great, but seeing another person enjoy what you have created gives me a deeper happiness and a willingness to help them achieve greater things.” It is with this realization that he came up with the motto “We can enjoy the journey together!” It doesn't matter to him if that is model railroading, sports, the outdoors, or even working in the yard.

You can read about Jim's “Quest for Master Model Railroader” over several articles in the *NMRA MAGAZINE*, starting with the January 2017 issue. He also gives more details about his journey on his website JamestownTrains.com and includes numerous photos and suggestions to help others on their journey. He is always willing to help others so that they can enjoy their journey as much as he is enjoying his.

Certificates Earned — Jim Wanlass

Association Volunteer
Chief Dispatcher
Master Builder - Cars
Model Railroad Author
Master Builder - Structures
Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical