

NMRA BULLETIN

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Who do I contact...?

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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT
*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

MAY 2007

GOLDEN SPIKE

Mid-Central Region

Alan Buehner, Madison, Ohio Robert Lee, Reynoldsburg, Ohio David Matheny, Galloway, Ohio

Mid-Continent Region

Peter Jaynes, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Mike Tomei, Lawrence, Kansas

Mid Eastern Region

Alan Anderson, Bel Air, Maryland Brian Good, Harleysville, Pennsylvania Gentry Hayes, Fayetteville, North Carolina

Peter Slugg, Cary, North Carolina Murray White, Owings, Maryland David Zimmerman, Fayetteville, North Carolina

Rocky Mountain Region

Bill Sedivec, Placitas, New Mexico

Southeastern Region

Chris Shelton, Westavia Hills, Alabama

MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES

Mid-Central Region

Ron Gribler, Lebanon, Ohio

All notices of changes or corrections to this page must be directed to the NMRA Secretary 2007 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

2007 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
Detroit, MI • July 22 - 28, 2007 • Info: • http://www.nmra.org/2007/
Trade Show Booth Reservations—Debbie Draper, Registrar • 10837 N. 34th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310 • (602) 569-9072 • natltrainshow@aol.com
2008—Anaheim, CA • 2009—Hartford, CT • 2010—Milwaukee, WI • 2011—Sacramento, CA

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James A. Zinser, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

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Southeastern Region

Jerry Michnewicz*, Memphis, Tennessee

Model Railroad Engineer — Civil

Mid-Continent Region John O'Neill, Grand Island, Nebraska

North Central Region Peter Magoun, Traverse City, Michigan

Southeastern Region

Greg Scharfetter, Bartlett, Tennessee Hunter Womble, Birmingham, Alabama

Model Railroad Engineer — Electrical

Lone Star Region Charles Romig, Plano, Texas

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North Central Region
Peter Magoun, Traverse City, Michigan

Mid-Continent Region Robert Wintle, Parsons, Kansas

Mid Eastern Region Chuck Davis, Norfolk, Virginia

Southeastern Region Howard Goodwin, Acworth, Georgia

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David Irick*, Glendale, Arizona

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

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GARY SHAFFER EARNS MMR #393

ike many other railroaders, I received my first train set from Santa Claus when I was three years old in 1948. Every year after that, Santa always left something for my trains.

In 1950 my parents moved from Youngstown, Ohio, to a farm in Rock Creek, Ohio. The farmhouse had two bedrooms on the main level and three empty rooms upstairs. My dad built a 4x8-foot table for my trains and got me started with my first layout.

In the early summer of that year, my mother had gone shopping in Ashtabula, Ohio, and that afternoon when I came home from school, she told me that she had seen the smallest and nicest little train set at the Five & Dime store, and that she would take me there that weekend. That Saturday morning we went to town and there in the toy department was a Varney Little Joe train set (Wow!) for only \$29.95. But I only had \$5 in my pocket; I was \$25 short. The nice lady behind the counter said that I could lay it away and make weekly payments on it. Boy, she was nice! It seemed like a lifetime for me to pay it off, but I did. I still have the complete set in the box today!

I graduated from high school in 1964 and went on to Ashtabula Tech that year for Machinist. In 1965, I met my wife, Connie, and we were married in 1966. Three months later I enlisted in the Air Force for four years.

We have three sons, who are all interested in model railroading. In 1970, I went to work for Ashtabula's wastewater treatment plant. I retired from there in 1997 as Industrial Pretreatment Director.

In 1999, my wife passed away from cancer. Her aunt had previously introduced me to the lady who became my present wife, Rosemary. Rosemary's husband had also

died of cancer, and he was also a model railroader, which I didn't know at the time. We all lived near each other, too.

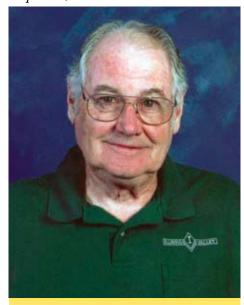
Today, Rosemary and I enjoy model railroading, antiquing, traveling, and gardening together. We set our yearly vacations around the NMRA's national conventions and the PRR conventions.

I belong to a loose-knit "Round Robin" group of 12 members that meet every Tuesday evening to run trains and eat the baked goods our wives provide. We also attend many model railroad shows, and go out to dinner together throughout the year.

I model the PY&A Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which runs from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to Youngstown to Ashtabula, Ohio. It's mainly a coal and ore hauling line. The layout takes up a space of 22x50 feet in my basement. It has all handlaid track and scratchbuilt switches. I enjoy scratchbuilding and kit-bashing structures as well as assembling resin kits.

I have given many clinics on many different railroad subjects at Division meeting and Regional conventions throughout the years and plan to continue in the future.

Gary has earned AP Certificates for Master Builder–Motive Power, Master Builder–Cars, Master Builder–Structures, Model Railroad Engineer–Civil, Model Railroad Engineer–Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, and Association Volunteer.



JAMES F. WISE EARNS MMR #394

was born in Piqua, Ohio, where the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad went through. My grandparents lived on a farm outside Bradford, Ohio. Bradford was a division point on the Pennsylvania RR from after World War I until into the 1930s. My

aunt worked for Dr. Minton, the railroad's physician. Three of my uncles went to work for PRR; one as a clerk, two became firemen. After PRR closed the division point at Bradford, my uncles were transferred to Columbus, Ohio. One became a yard engineer, and another one became a passenger engineer out of Columbus. Spending time with my uncles around the rail yards fueled my fascination of railroads.

Growing up in the Depression did not allow me to have a train. I met my wife in college, and after she graduated, we married. A year later, we moved to Decatur, Illinois, my wife's home town. The next Christmas after we moved, my wife purchased a used Lionel as a joke for me. That started it!

My very first layout was on the floor around the living room in our apartment. We had a 12-inch high rubber frog as "guard frog" (so no visitor would step on the track) when entering the room. My brother-in-law got involved, and we named the railroad the Lousy & Western Railroad.

Five years later, I was offered a job in Peoria, Illinois, and we moved. Six months later, we purchased our first home. I traded my Lionel equipment for HO, and I built my first real layout in the basement. It was small, but it was *great*. I started having other train enthusiasts come meet at my home.

After our two boys arrived, we purchased a large old house that we remodeled inside and out. I began my railroad

empire in our large basement with plenty of rooms. During that time, I got to know the owner of Hobby Models Store and went to work for him part-time. My working at the hobby store gave me access to quite a few "railroaders," and they got started in the hobby by coming over to run trains.

It was then that the Illinois Valley Railroad Club began, and I became one of the charter officers. I also joined the NMRA and soon after became a Life Member. Marion Brasher, MMR, began the Illinois Valley Division of the Midwestern Region. I also became a charter board member of that division. Our home was the headquarters for the railroad club.

In 1968, I purchased the company I worked for, Ziegle Printers. I needed to sell the old house to get working capital, and my layout was put in boxes. This life event ended my involvement with the club and the Division.

After several years, my wife and I purchased the house we currently live in. I used a small room and built a modest-sized HO layout. I decided to scale down and subsequently sold all my equipment except my geared locomotives and wood cars (37-feet and under.) In 1992, I sold my business and retired. My modeling went into high gear!

My wife had a larger craft/workroom than my model railroad room. When she went to visit our daughter in California, I switched rooms. I began construction on my new layout and was only satisfied after the third attempt. I had an open house during a divisional meet in Peoria, Illinois.

In 2000, Marion Brasher told me I should get active again in the NMRA and start on the AP program since the new layout already qualified me for the Civil and Electrical certificates. This spurred me on, and I got back on the Division Board. As of this year, I was also elected to the Regional Board. My layout is still called Lousy & Western — "The Old Unreliable" — and is strictly a fictional place. It is set in the early 1900s and is a logging and mining operation.

This summer, Arlene and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary in Sedona, Arizona, with our daughter, Taryn from Sedona, and our two sons, Jed from Peoria and Jock from Dallas.

I am a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, Editor of the *Shriner*, play in the Shrine Brass Band, play bridge and golf as much as possible, and enjoy model railroading — the greatest hobby a person can have. Along with the seven AP certificates on my wall, I received my 50 Year Certificate this year.

James has earned AP Certificates for Master Builder–Cars, Master Builder–Structures, Master Builder–Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer–Civil, Model Railroad Engineer–Electrical, Chief Dispatcher and Association Volunteer.

Attach clear plastic parts without fogging them

Windows in buildings and cars can be attached using clear nail polish to avoid the fogging from the fumes of CA glues. Brush a tiny amount on to each of the surfaces to be joined and wait a minute or two for the polish to get dry to the point it is sticky. Align the two parts and gently press them together. As with standard glues, be careful not to apply too much polish to avoid getting glue lumps. This will work for detail parts, but not as a regular adhesive.

— Leslie Eaton, MMR

Stencil holder

Use an old piece of siding or a siding joiner piece to hold the stencils for clouds, mountains/hills, or city skylines while you spray colors. They will be held

MMR Modeling Tips

stiff and help keep the paint off your hands. Part of this idea came from a convention clinic.

— Paul Locher, MMR

LEGOs

Need a square glue joint on a building, bridge or anything else? Try LEGO® blocks! LEGOs can be assembled to fit just about any application, whether it's squaring up the sides of a building or making sure a tunnel portal is plumb to the track. Use wax paper between blocks and any CA or epoxy.

— Gerry Leone, MMR

Frosted glass

A great way to simulate frosted glass in passenger cars or structures is to use Scotch Magic tape on the back side of the acetate. If you burnish it down evenly, it will make the glass look "frosty." Plus, it's easy to remove if you don't care for the effect.

— Gerry Leone, MMR

Make plastic windows look old or tinted

Pour a small amount of Future floor wax into a small bottle. Use a toothpick to pick up a small amount of food coloring to tint the wax solution. Yellow food coloring can be used to create old, yellowed windows. A tiny amount of India ink mixed into the wax solution will create "tinted" windows. Add additional ink to create dark-tinted windows. Hobby and craft stores also sell a clear liquid to create "stained glass." These solutions also can be used to tint windows.

— Leslie Eaton, MMR

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