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rev 7-1-08

2008 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
Train Show Booth Reservations—Debbie Draper, HLM, Registrar • 10837 N. 34th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310 • (602) 569-9072 • nattrainshow@aol.com
2009—Harford, CT • 2010—Milwaukee, WI • 2011—Sacramento, CA

August 2008

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The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.

RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE’s patent.

The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA’s patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

www.NMRA.org
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NMRA Included in 2008 Combined Federal Campaign

By: Roger L. Cason, MMR
NMRA Fund Raising Manager

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) takes place in federal work places once a year. In many ways, this campaign is similar to a United Way solicitation. Employees can make contributions to charitable organizations of their choice via payroll deduction.

We have been notified that — for the first time — the NMRA will be included in the next CFC campaign — projected for the fall of 2008. This is in response to our application for inclusion (59 pages, including attachments).

Bottom line: if you are a federal employee and you wish to make a financial contribution to the NMRA, you may want to consider the CFC as the mechanism for making your contribution. We will be listed under “National/International Independent Organizations.” Our identification number will be 12286.

Address change?
Back Issues or Replacement issues of Scale Rails?

Members needing to make address changes, request back issues, or replacement issues of Scale Rails should contact the staff at the national headquarters office in Chattanooga, Tennessee, at (423) 892-2846 or by email at nmrahq@aol.com.
## NMRA Future convention dates
(Note: Convention dates are from Sunday to Saturday - Last date of NTS is one day later)

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>July 5 - July 11, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>July 11 - July 17, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>July 3 - July 9, 2011</td>
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<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>July 29 - Aug 4, 2012</td>
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</tbody>
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### Chief Dispatcher
- **British Region**
  - Robert O. Beecher, Scotland, Pennsylvania
  - Vernor Bates, Bodmin, Cornwall, GB

### Lone Star Region
- Charles Romig, Plano, Texas

### Southeastern Region
- Clinton H. Smoke,* Arden, North Carolina

### Sunshine Region
- Royal Bruce, Sarasota, Florida
- George W. Johnson, Jr,* Sarasota, Florida

### Association Official
- **Mid-Continent Region**
  - John O’Neill, MMR, Grand Island, Nebraska

### Mid-Central Region
- Robert Fink, MMR, Waynesville, Ohio
- David Hazlett,* Akron, Ohio

### Midwest Region
- Donald Brindle, Rockford, Illinois
- Roger A. Wurtzel, Plover, Wisconsin

### Association Volunteer
- **Mid-Continent Region**
  - Ben Merta,* Marion, Iowa

### Mid-Central Region
- J. Thomas Bredestege,* North Bend, Ohio

### Midwest Region
- Lawrence J. Cich,* Creston, Illinois

### Thousand Lakes Region
- Douglas Harding,* Sibley, Iowa

### Model Railroad Author
- **British Region**
  - Patrick Grace,* Arelsford, Colchester, Essex, GB
  - Mick Moignard,* Oakley, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, GB

### Mid-Continent Region
- James Wells, Hastings, Nebraska

### Mid Eastern Region
- David S. Bucher, Downingtown, Pennsylvania

### Midwest Region
- Dave Crement, Carpentersville, Illinois
- Richard Hanke, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

### Northeastern Region
- Thomas Piccirillo,* Warren, New Jersey

### Pacific Northwest Region
- Wil Seaver, Grangeville, Idaho

### Thousand Lakes Region
- Douglas Harding, Sibley, Iowa

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- Be a part of programs like “Modeling With The Masters,” the Pike Registry, Estate Counseling, contests, clinics, the Achievement Program and more!

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*RMRA rail pass offer is good in the U.S. only and is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can only join at rail pass rates one time. Membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can vote, attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.*