

NMRA BULLETIN

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If interested in this position, contact Mike Brestel

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Kalmbach Memorial Library Manager — Brent Lambert

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Fund Raising Department Manager — Vacant

If interested in this position, contact Mike Brestel

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Scale Rails

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

SEPTEMBER 2009 GOLDEN SPIKE

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Australasian Region

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Australasian Region

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Mid-Continent Region

Philip Bonzon, University City, Missouri

Mid-Central Region

Gary Burdette, Point Pleasant, West Virginia

MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

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Gary Burdette, Point Pleasant, West Virginia

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Allen Hare, Stokes Valley, NZL

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Philip Bonzon, University City, Missouri

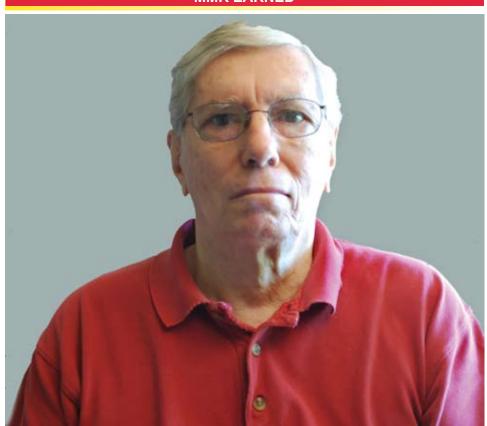
Midwest Region

Jim McQueeny, Rockford, Illinois

MMR GROUP: All MMRs are invited to work with other MMRs by contacting Rick Shoup, MMR, at ricshoup@verizon.net.

If you have questions about the AP 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 Dr., Batavia, OH 45103.

MMR EARNED



PHIL BONZON EARNS MMR #427

A s a youngster in the early 1940s, and like a lot of model railroaders, I received a Lionel O-27 train set for Christmas, which was replaced with HO scale equipment after WWII. Several layouts were built during this period with hand-laid track and turnouts, and at the age of 13, I scratchbuilt a brass box cab diesel. In the 1940s, I would bicycle

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to the Frisco or Missouri Pacific St. Louis yards and railfan. Once a month I would attend the operating session of the Big Bend Model Railroad Club's O scale layout. As I got older, school, then work, marriage, and children gradually slowed down my model railroading.

During the 1960s and 1970s, I began planning for a Baltimore & Ohio HO layout, buying and building equipment. Other interests such as sailing, boat building and business — designing and providing the exterior walls for high-rise commercial and major monumental buildings around the world — left only time for reading *Model Railroader* and *RMC* and dreaming. During this period I went from being a draftsman, in engineering, to Chief Designer and finally company president. My work and business travels took me to projects all over the World...Kansai International Airport in Japan, Riyadh International Airport in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, and Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong, Torre Major office tower in Mexico City, Sears Tower and John Hancock Tower in Chicago, World Trade Center in New York, Treasury Building in Singapore, just to name a few.

Finally at the end of 2002, I retired and dug out my stored HO plans and equipment. A bicycling accident left me with plenty of time for model building and planning. About three years ago, I decided that the B&O empire I was planning was just too ambitious and I started looking for a shortline that interchanged with the B&O. There was the Buffalo Creek & Gauley railroad in West Virginia with just three 2-8-0s and 18.6 miles of track and it seemed like the perfect railroad to model. There was not much information available on the BC&G and then along came Brooks Stover with his BC&G website that is the mother lode of information — I was hooked. Not only did the website provide me with information, I became interested in researching the BC&G and a contributor to the website www.buffalocreekandgauley.com. Through the Internet, I met some of the wonderful people who worked for the BC&G and/or lived in Clay County, West Virginia, where the BC&G had been located.

In March 2008, I joined the NMRA, met some great people, and joined a weekly operations group. My kitbashing and scratchbuilding expanded, and encouraged by others, I entered five models in the Gateway Division's 2008 Fall Meet model contest. There, I won four first places and one second place, and started down the AP path towards a goal of MMR. First up were Prototype, Scenery, Structures and Motive Power, followed by Dispatcher, Author and Cars. I got energized by the SCALE RAILS 2008 "Year of the MMR" and the encouragement of Brooks Stover, Frank Criswell, Larry Smith MMR, Don Taschner MMR, Rich and Venita Lake, my Thursday Night Ops Group, the great Gateway Division membership, and my wife, Pat, who has put up with me for 54 years. Working on each of the certificates expanded my knowledge, experience and raised my modeling standards and goals... besides, it was fun!

The NMRA will be 75 in 2010, as will I.

Phil has earned the following certificates: Master Builder-Scenery, Master Builder-Prototype, Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder-Motive Power, Chief Dispatcher, Model Railroad Author, Master Builder-Cars.

HEADQUARTERS

BIDS FOR THE NMRA 2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The NMRA Meetings & Trade Show Department is requesting bids from potential Host Groups for the 2014 NMRA National Convention.

The convention area for 2014 is the central area of North America. The central area is roughly defined as west of a line from the western border of Pennsylvania and the Quebec/Ontario border to states and provinces east of the Rocky Mountains.

If a group desires to host the NMRA National Convention, a letter of intent must be sent to the Meeting & Trade Show Department no later than January 1, 2010.

If interested in hosting the NMRA National Convention, please contact Henry Jordan 301-598-0175 (E-mail conv@hq.nmra.org) for additional information.

Address change? **BACK ISSUES OR REPLACEMENT** ISSUES OF SCALE RAILS?

Tembers needing to make address changes, request back issues, or replacement issues of SCALE RAILS should contact the staff at the national headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, at (423) 892-2846 or by email at nmrahq@aol.

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Scale Rails