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2017 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
2018—Kansas City, MO • August 5 – 12, 2018 • http://kc2018.org
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • nmra@nmra.org
• 2019—Salt Lake City, UT • 2020—St. Louis, MO • 2021—Santa Clara, CA
Did you know?

NMRA National Convention Clinics in the Members Only section on the NMRA’s Website

Numerous videos were made of clinics at several recent National Conventions. These 85 videos, initially available on DVDs from the NMRA Library, are now becoming available in the Members Only section of the website. You can browse and view them either from the Education menu or the “Watch Convention Videos” button on the Member Home Page.

You can watch a National Convention Clinic - AT HOME.

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.
New Jersey born and bred, I was about five when my two younger brothers and I received an American Flyer train set for Christmas. Unwilling to put it away after its annual holiday journey around our Christmas tree, I nailed its track to a piece of plywood and placed it on sawhorses... thus creating my first layout. As a teenager, I became fascinated with HO-scale trolleys and constructed a small, fully scenicked, around-the-walls traction layout in the abandoned coal bin in our house.

A move to a new home in my late teens forced me to dismantle that first attempt at a serious layout but led to my meeting Ron Hrasna, a model railroad enthusiast, friend, and fellow prep school classmate. We began constructing an HO model railroad (Ron will reappear later in this saga). For the next 22 years came college, marriage, a family, and only an occasional glance at a model railroad magazine. The small railroad Ron and I began would never be completed!

A move (the last of three, to three different states) brought me to Rhode Island, the smallest state affectionately known as "Little Rhody." I learned that my childhood friend Ron and his family now lived two hours away in Bedford, New Hampshire. Ron, a founding member of the Bedford Boomers modular railroad club, rekindled my interest in model railroading. Upon reentering the hobby, I discovered that modular model railroading had taken hold during my absence. I began assisting in the Bedford Boomers at their annual show and met their head, Bill Trueheart. Inspired by Bill's energy and Ron's enthusiasm, I began building a conventional HO-scale layout at home. In response to the need for modular layouts in Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts, the late Roland Marcotte and I co-founded the Narraganset Bay Railroad and Navigation Company — an On30 modular model railroad. Work on the NBR&N led me to adopt ultra-lightweight modular construction about which I have presented clinics on lightweight techniques at local shows and Regional Conventions.

Although the NBR&N is On30, my home layout — the "East Bay & Westerly" — is an HO model railroad set in the 1940s, and I have also modeled in N scale. Retired from my profession of industrial design, I now find myself utilizing my design skills to create custom layouts for new clients in O and G scale, as well as HO.

Since the early 1990s, I have been an active member of the Little Rhody Division of the NMRA. I have served as the Division Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Show Chairman over the years. As Show Chairman, I organized a total of seven shows for the Division. For the last several years, I have acted as the NMRA Achievement Program chairman for the Division.

I am also a member of the Eastern New England chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts for which I designed and built a small alpine-themed layout (the "Berg Bahn") that has been exhibited at one-day shows that were inappropriate venues for our much larger European layout.

With an abiding interest in maritime history and wooden ship building, I have constructed several fully rigged, scratch-built schooners and gaff-rigged sloops. Custom-built tramp steamships and workboats populate my waterfront model railroad scenes.

I am an avid sailor and can frequently be found on Narragansett Bay aboard my 4½-ton, two-masted, cat schooner Itate. I occasionally return to my artistic roots by painting landscapes and still lifes in oil. An admirer of Bavarian folk music and culture, I co-founded a Bavarian Schuhplattler dance group in Rhode Island in 1983. Dance performances at various cultural events and Oktoberfests continue to test my energy, stamina, and old legs.

I continue to work on three layouts, my HO one at home, the NBR&N, and the European club's Berg Bahn.
Announcing the recipients of the 2017 NMRA President’s Award for Service to the Division

By Gerry Leone, MMR - NMRA Vice-President / Special Projects

If you belong to a Division, you know exactly the person we’re talking about. We’re talking about the guy who puts in far more hours than anyone else. The woman who has done the thankless paperwork tasks for the last 12 years, never complains, and never gets credit. The member who shows up early at every swap meet to help set up the tables, then stays late to help clean up and take everything down.

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These are the people who make the NMRA work. These are the people who help their Division, yet never receive much credit for their contributions other than an “attaboy” from the Super. These are the people the NMRA President’s Award for Service to the Division is designed to nationally recognize.

The NMRA President’s Award for Service to the Division is a new award this year and is long overdue, because, as we all know, the Division is where “the rubber meets the road.” It’s the face of the NMRA in local neighborhoods all around the world. For decades, there’s been a national NMRA President’s Award given to members who have donated their time and effort to the National organization. Our 18 Regions each give President’s Awards to members who have gone above and beyond to help the Region. But there has never before been an award that has recognized Division members who’ve worked tirelessly serving their Division and making the NMRA work locally.

According to its official description, the NMRA President’s Award for Service to the Division will be awarded by the NMRA president to no more than one individual per year in each Region who’s done outstanding, “beyond-the-call-of-duty” work to make their Division effective, engaging, and welcoming to members.

This year, at the annual awards banquet at the Orlando Convention, President Charlie Getz announced the winners of the first annual NMRA President’s Award for Service to the Division. With the help of NMRA National Board members and Region Presidents, President Getz chose these 18 individuals to be the recipients of this award.

Terry Davis (Thousand Lakes Region) — Terry served multiple terms as both Superintendent and newsletter editor of the Prairie Lakes Division, editor of the Minnesota River Valley Division’s newsletter, and was Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of that Division twice. Terry also founded the 100% NMRA Luce Line Railroad Club and served as its president, newsletter editor, and rail show chair, and put on innumerable clinics at both Division and Region conventions.

Grant McAdam (Australasian Region) — Grant took on the role of Division Superintendent for Division 3, representing Tasmania and Victoria, for more than 16 years. During that time, he maintained the Division through good times and bad and has ensured the Division remained vibrant with an interesting monthly program of activities for members. Today, the Division is well known for being welcoming and friendly – a direct result of Grant’s efforts.

Mark Cowles (North Central Region) — Mark served as Division clerk and newsletter editor for more than 20 years, keeping the Division both organized and interesting. In fact, when he turned in his Achievement Program “Association Volunteer” paperwork several years ago, he had almost 400 time units accrued!

Walt Liles (Southeast Region) — Walt is the current Piedmont Division Superintendent, but has also served as Director of Operations, Director-At-Large, Chair of the Volunteer Committee, and Chair of the Raffle Layout Committee. He established the Division’s Facebook Group (currently hosting more than 200 members), managed the construction of a Division raffle layout, and has presented dozens of clinics, as well as opening his home layout to tours for more than five years.

Ben Sevier (Pacific Southwest Region) — Ben has co-chaired four Regional conventions hosted by the San Diego Division. During that same time period, he was also editor of the Division’s newsletter. He served several terms as Division Superintendent, Clerk, and Paymaster. He’s also been Region President, Convention Chair, Vice President, and newsletter editor. Ben is currently serving as NMRA National IT Chair.

Jack Dziadul (Mid-Eastern Region) — To say that Jack is a well-known figure in the MER is an understatement. Jack has served as an officer in the Carolina Piedmont Division, as well as being a director for the Region. And because he’s no stranger to hard work, Jack even quit his Director office to serve as chairman for the 2016 Mid-Eastern Region convention.

Roy F. Hord (Mid-Central Region) — Roy has been a Division 7 member for more than 40 years, and during that time has served as Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, newsletter editor and publisher, Division trustee, Regional convention treasurer and registrar (multiple times), National Convention registrar, as well as serving in a wide variety of other assignments. He’s been described as “the oil that keeps the Division’s various moving parts working together with as little friction as possible, and the glue that binds the leadership together in their roles as keepers of the Division.”

Shirley Sample (Pacific Northwest Region) — For more than 20 years, Shirley has been the “go to” person when something needed to happen in the Fifth Division. Shirley has been at the center of virtually every Division activity to the point where, if something good happens, you can be sure that Shirley is in the middle of that success.
From getting others to help with activities to personally stepping up to fill critical vacancies, Shirley is always there.

**Alex Huerres (European Region)**
— Although Alex is currently the Superintendent of the Iberian Division in Spain, he was actually active many years before the beginning of the European Region and was extremely instrumental in getting the Region founded. He's also the administrator of the Division's Facebook page and is omnipresent with a Division booth at local train shows in Spain.

**Doug Wagner (Pacific Coast Region)**
— Doug may not always be the one in charge, but he is always the one doing the work. Whether it’s layout tours, finding venues, doing paperwork, or sending emails, he’s always there. No matter where the Division’s meetings are, Doug is always in attendance, and many members have said that they would never have been active in the PCR if not for Doug’s support and friendship.

**Richard Seymour (Midwest Region)**
— Rich served 10 years on the Division Board (nine as Chief Clerk) and was the Registrar for the Midwest Region’s “Milepost 50” convention and the “Highball to Indy” 2016 National Convention, where he also served as webmaster. He photographs all meets and activities, produces maps for Division layout tours, helps with the Division website, and ensures all other Board members receive recognition each year. He often finishes a job before anyone thinks to ask him.

**Martin Boyask (British Region)**
— Martin has been a well-respected BR member who edited the Region’s magazine, *Roundhouse*, since 1983. With his hard work and leadership, he has taken the magazine from a basic duplicated typewritten newsletter to a full-color magazine published six times a year. Most members agree that the Region has relied on his independent, unbiased viewpoint for decades. Regrettably, Martin passed away only a few months before these award winners were announced.

**Chris Lyon (Niagara Frontier Region)**
— Chris was chosen for his complete selflessness. He’s always prepared to share information and is always assisting other members in the construction of their layouts. He’s presented innumerable clinics at simple get-togethers and has even given his clinics at members’ houses to help ensure that the layout owner picks up the proper skills. In addition, he presents videos of his clinics on YouTube.

**Peter Watson (Northeastern Region)**
— Few model railroaders in the NER have had the impact that Pete Watson has had. Pete has served the HUB Division in numerous capacities and roles, including President, Vice-President, Office Manager, Clerk, and BOD member. He was a founding member of the Division’s modular group, has served on many of the Division’s committees, and has been chairman of the Division’s annual Spring TRAINing show for the past eight years.

**Donovan Lewis (Sunshine Region)**
— Donovan has provided extraordinary service and dedication to the office of Division Superintendent. Members know he’s one who can be counted on for wise counsel and is a true visionary and superior leader. Division members agree that he’s made the NMRA a better place for modelers.

**Dave Lamberts (Lone Star Region)**
— Dave has served as Director for Division 5 for more years than most can count. In addition, he chaired two highly successful LSR conventions and has served as the Photography Chair for the Region, taking thousands of photos of all the LSR conventions for many years, as well as photos for the Region’s website.

**Al Hovey (Rocky Mountain Region)**
— Al has been a very active member of the Rio Grande Division of the RMR, serving in a number of positions. He recently was the chairperson for one of the Region’s most successful conventions and has actively served on the RMR Board of Directors, including Vice-President. Al has worked diligently with Youth in Model Railroading and has delivered presentations all over the Region promoting the youth.

**Larry Alfred (Mid-Continent Region)**
— Larry has been actively involved with the NMRA since the early 1980s. He’s served in dozens of roles for the Turkey Creek Division and has proven himself a true leader. Larry was actively involved with both the 1984 and 1998 Kansas City National Conventions, as well as organizing the MCoR’s Kansas conventions in Olathe in 2003 and Overland Park in 2013. Not a year goes by that Larry isn’t active in both the Division and Region.

On behalf of the entire National Model Railroad Association, we’d like to congratulate these 18 worthy recipients. It truly is you who make the NMRA the great organization it is. Thank you for your service.

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**Meet a bunch of modelers in your backyard.**

When you’re a National Model Railroad Association member, you’re never very far away from fellow model railroaders because you’re automatically a member of your local Division. There are over 150 of them all across the country! Some hold monthly or quarterly meetings. Some sponsor swap meets. Some take tours to factories and prototype facilities. Some do it all and more.

But one thing they all have in common: they like model railroads…and model railroaders.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) to find your local Division. Then meet up with some of your best friends, right outside your door.

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[Visit NMRA](http://www.nmra.org) 423-892-2846