2020 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
2020—St. Louis, MO • July 12–18, 2020 • http://www.gateway2020.org
Mid-Eastern Region—Kurt Thompson, MMR® 350 Ternwing Drive, Arnold, MD 21012 410-507-3671 (cell) e-mail: mtprez@nmra.org
Midwest Region—Steve Studley 5115 N Echo Bend, Bloomington IN 47404 H: (812) 876-9726 e-mail: mwrprez@nmra.org
Niagara Frontier Region—Richard Hatton 205 Country Lane, Stayer ON L0M 1S0 705-428-9997 e-mail: nfrprez@nmra.org
North Central Region—Scott Kremer 42490 Ravina Ct, Northville, MI 48168 H: (734) 420-2314 e-mail: ncrprez@nmra.org
Northeastern Region—John Doehring 34 Hadley Rd, Pepperell, MA 01463 H: (978) 877-9148 e-mail: nerprez@nmra.org
Pacific Coast Region—Chris Palermo 230 Alberta Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070 H: (650) 208-3150 e-mail: pcrprez@nmra.org
Pacific Northwest Region—Kurt Laidlaw 4517 Merry Ln W, University Place WA 98466 H: (253) 495-8351 e-mail: pnrprez@nmra.org
Pacific Southwest Region—Gary Butts, MMR® 5991 Kenwick Cir, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 H: (714) 842-4980 e-mail: psrprez@nmra.org
Rocky Mountain Region—Denny Krausman, MMR® 9609 Silver Hill Circle, Lone Tree, CO 80124 H: (303) 880-1879 e-mail: rmrprez@nmra.org
Southeastern Region—Larry Burkholder 2125 Rickover Place, Winter Garden, FL 34787 (407) 625-0309 e-mail: ssrprez@nmra.org
Sunshine Region—David M Barron 2125 Rickover Place, Winter Garden, FL 34787 (407) 625-0309 e-mail: ssrprez@nmra.org
Thousand Lakes Region—Jay Manning 7100 Stoney Creek St, Sioux Falls, SD 57106 e-mail: tlrprez@nmra.org

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Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328 423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org
• 2021—Santa Clara, CA • 2022—Birmingham, England

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Notify Headquarters
e-mail: nmrahq@nmra.org
Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am–4pm ET)
Mail: P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328

DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM MANAGERS
Chief Administrative Officer —
Jenny Hendricks
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
O: 423-892-2846 Fax: 423-899-4869
e-mail: nmrahq@nmra.org
Library - 423-892-2846 or nmraops@nmra.org

Standards and Conformance Department Manager—Carl Smeigh
30543 Lettingwell Circle
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
H: 727-512-9729
e-mail: tech-chair@nmra.org

Region Secretaries: send all changes in Region officer information to the NMRA Secretary: secy@nmra.org.

REGION PRESIDENTS
Australasian Region—Graham Young
12 Hickory Court, Buderim QLD 4556
H: 61 7 5479 0339 M: 61 418 364 375
e-mail president@nmra.org.au

British Region—Charles Hendy
39 Dartmouth Road
Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0DD
United Kingdom +44 7940032509
e-mail: brprez@nmra.org

European Region—Alain Kap, MMR® (HO, HOn3, On3/30)
Kammerforststrasse 3a
D-54439 SAARBURG, Germany
Phone: +49 6581-603045 Mobile: +352 691-325089
e-mail: erprez@nmra.org

Lone Star Region—Chuck Lind, MMR®
3680 CR 324, Navasota, TX 77868
H: (979) 219-3305
e-mail: lrprez@nmra.org

Mid-Central Region—Robert Weinheimer MMR®
398 Mount View Dr., Charleston, WV 25314
H: (304) 343-1428 e-mail: mcprrez@nmra.org

Mid-Continent Region — Brad Slone MMR®
PO Box 313, Dixon, MO 65459.
H: 573 308 7144
e-mail: mcrprrez@nmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region—Kurt Thompson, MMR®
350 Ternwing Drive, Arnold, MD 21012
410-507-3671 (cell)
e-mail: mtprez@nmra.org

Midwest Region—Steve Studley
5115 N Echo Bend, Bloomington IN 47404
H: (812) 876-9726 e-mail: mwrprez@nmra.org

Niagara Frontier Region—Richard Hatton
205 Country Lane, Stayer ON L0M 1S0
705-428-9997 e-mail: nfrprez@nmra.org

North Central Region—Scott Kremer
42490 Ravina Ct, Northville, MI 48168
H: (734) 420-2314 e-mail: ncrprez@nmra.org

Northeastern Region—John Doehring
34 Hadley Rd, Pepperell, MA 01463
H: (978) 877-9148 e-mail: nerprez@nmra.org

Pacific Coast Region—Chris Palermo
230 Alberta Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070
H: (650) 208-3150 e-mail: pcrprez@nmra.org

Pacific Northwest Region—Kurt Laidlaw
4517 Merry Ln W, University Place WA 98466
H: (253) 495-8351 e-mail: pnrprez@nmra.org

Pacific Southwest Region—Gary Butts, MMR®
5991 Kenwick Cir, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
H: (714) 842-4980 e-mail: psrprez@nmra.org

Rocky Mountain Region—Denny Krausman, MMR®
9609 Silver Hill Circle, Lone Tree, CO 80124
H: (303) 880-1879. e-mail: rmrprez@nmra.org

Southeastern Region—Larry Burkholder
206 Coyatec View, Loudon, TN 37774-2172
H: (865) 408-9903 e-mail: slprez@nmra.org

Sunshine Region—David M Barron
2125 Rickover Place, Winter Garden, FL 34787 (407) 625-0309 e-mail: ssrprez@nmra.org

Thousand Lakes Region—Jay Manning
7100 Stoney Creek St, Sioux Falls, SD 57106
e-mail: tlrprez@nmra.org

Standards and Conformance Department Manager—Carl Smeigh
30543 Lettingwell Circle
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543
H: 727-512-9729
e-mail: tech-chair@nmra.org

Region Secretaries: send all changes in Region officer information to the NMRA Secretary: secy@nmra.org.
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT
October 2019
Golden Spike
Australasian Region
Ray Applebee, Salisbury, South Australia, Australia
Mark Bean, Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia
Ray Brownbill, Forreston, South Australia, Australia
Darren Lee, Jimboomba, Queensland, Australia
Neil Tonklin, Kingsley, Western Australia, Australia
Mid-Eastern Region
Bryan Persing, Willoughby Hills, Ohio
North Central Region
John Jackson, Birmingham, Michigan
Pacific Northwest Region
Jerry Barness, Spokane, Washington
Richard Bide, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada
Lee Chessman, Spokane, Washington
Peter Heppler, Spokane, Washington
Michael Murphy, Hyden Lake, Idaho
Burr Stewart, Seattle, Washington
Bill Voogd, Spokane, Washington
Frank Wilhelm, Moscow, Idaho
Daniel Wise, Lewiston, Idaho
Southeastern Region
Russell Bundy, Marietta, Georgia
Roberta Dean, Crossville, Tennessee
Master Builder - Cars
Australasian Region
Mike Bartlett, Black Head, New South Wales
Mid-Eastern Region
Ernest Little, Manassas, Virginia
Master Builder - Structures
Australasian Region
Merv Bagnell, Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia
Robert Harding, Kuraby, Queensland, Australia
Master Builder - Scenery
Australasian Region
Merv Bagnell, Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia
Duncan Cabassi, Sinnamon Park, Queensland, Australia
Robert Harding, Kuraby, Queensland, Australia
David O’Hearn, Belmont, New South Wales, Australia
Mid-Eastern Region
Pete LaGuardia, Haymarket, Virginia
Pat Mulrooney, New Holland, Pennsylvania
Joe Skorch, Kannapolis, North Carolina
Northeastern Region
Stanley Ames, Jr., Chelmsford, Massachusetts
Pacific Northwest Region
Burr Stewart, Seattle, Washington
Rocky Mountain Region
Stewart Jones, Denver, Colorado
Joseph Lemmo, Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Master Builder - Prototype Models
Australasian Region
David Howarth, MMR®, West Pymble, New South Wales, Australia
Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
Australasian Region
Merv Bagnell, Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia
Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
Australasian Region
Merv Bagnell, Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia
Duncan Cabassi, Sinnamon Park, Queensland, Australia
North Central Region
Jim Macino, Columbia City, Indiana
Pacific Northwest Region
Burr Stewart, Seattle, Washington
Chief Dispatcher
Mid-Central Region
Joe Fields, Louisville, Kentucky
Mid-Eastern Region
Andrew Sadler, Charlotte, North Carolina
Association Official
Australasian Region
Charles Clarke, Little Mountain, Queensland, Australia
John Gillies, Lynchem, Australian Capital Territory, Australia
Allen Ogden, Seaholme, Victoria, Australia
Mid-Eastern Region
Jack Dziadul, Sanford, North Carolina
Association Volunteer
Australasian Region
Rev. Dr. Vern Cracknell, Lower Mitcham, South Australia, Australia
Arthur Hayes, MMR®, Sunny Bank Hills, Queensland, Australia
Brian Hutchinson, Prospect, South Australia, Australia
David Orr, Modbury North, South Australia, Australia
Jane Robinson, Flagstaff Hill, South Australia, Australia
Mid-Eastern Region
Richard Turton, Morgantown, West Virginia
North Central Region
William Wemhoff, Decatur, Indiana
Chuck White, Van Verr, Ohio
Northeastern Region
Andy Clermont, Albany, New York
Rocky Mountain Region
Stewart Jones, Denver, Colorado
Model Railroad Author
Mid-Eastern Region
Pete LaGuardia, Haymarket, Virginia
Midwest Region
Emil Mosny, Jr., Rockford, Illinois
MASTER MODEL RAILROADER®
Mike Bartlett, Black Head, New South Wales, MMR® #646
Ernest Little, Manassas, Virginia, MMR® #647
AP QUESTIONS: 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 Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.
I have been a model railroader for as long as I can remember. Like many of my generation, I got my start in the hobby courtesy of Lionel Trains. Unlike many in my generation, my childhood interests in trains, both miniature and full size, ultimately defined my life as it led me down a path to both a lifelong hobby and a railroad career.

My dad had an interest in trains, but my mother and my grandfather were the real enablers of my passion. My mother purchased a Lionel train set (Pennsylvania Railroad GG1 and three Tuscan red PRR passenger cars) at Higbee’s department store in Cleveland, Ohio, for my third Christmas. That was soon followed by a steam-powered freight train and other accessories. My collection grew thanks to my grandfather, who always indulged my love for trains at Christmas. I still remember looking under the tree for the telltale shape of those wonderful orange boxes that said Lionel in that splendid white and blue. Dad and I, mostly Dad, built a nice Lionel layout in the basement that was operational during the winter months but was folded up against the wall for most of the year. I remember Dad taking me to a railroad exhibition that featured the New York Central 999 and a visit to the cab of a large Nickel Plate steam engine. I recall Dad picking me up to reach the whistle cord, which, when I pulled it, produced a result that scared me to death.

After my parents moved to a new basement, I mean home, when I was 15 years old, I drifted away from my Lionel trains and began construction of an O-scale layout with hand-laid track and turnouts. Hand-laid track was a necessity on a 15-year-old’s budget, and the cost of rolling stock and motive power was dear. My parents continued to indulge my hobby interests with a number of All Nation Hobby car kits and an EMD switcher kit. While in high school, I saved and saved to purchase a Kemtron brass GP9 kit and a Central Locomotive Works drive, which I built and still have today. Baltimore & Ohio 6599 is proudly displayed along with a scratchbuilt B&O caboose that I constructed shortly thereafter.

By the time I reached junior high school, I knew that I wanted to be an engineer (not the locomotive engineer kind) and was admitted to Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland after graduating from high school. My chosen major was Chemical Engineering. By the end of my freshman year, two life-changing events occurred. First, I had learned that while high school chemistry was my all-time favorite subject, college chemistry was absolutely positively not. This revelation resulted in changing my major to Electrical Engineering — the choice being related to enjoying and learning more about wiring my model railroad. Also during my freshman year in college, I got a job during the Christmas holiday season at Blum’s Hobby House in Cleveland (Leonard M. Blum, or LMB, may be a name some of you remember) and became interested in HO scale.

The second event was my need to find a job for the summer of 1966. I learned through high school model railroad friend Roger Pinta that the B&O was hiring summer help, and I was hired as a Locomotive Fireman on the Akron Chicago Division working out of Deforest Jct., Ohio. This opportunity led to a lifelong love of the B&O Railroad. I joined the NMRA in 1964 and read about the Achievement Program, which was fairly new at the time, in the Bulletin, but I allowed my NMRA membership to lapse during my college years.

In 1970, I married my wife Nancy, and we moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where I had accepted a position as Associate Engineer Communications & Signals at Penn Central’s system office. I rejoined the NMRA in 1972 but was one of those people who did not participate in many activities. After a stint in the railroad signal supply industry, I joined the Chessie System Railroads in July 1976, headquartered in Huntington, West Virginia. In 1986 I became CSX Transportation’s first Chief Engineer Communications & Signals and moved to Jacksonville, Florida (a place without basements).

Throughout these years, my interest in model railroading never subsided. I built models in our apartment in Philadelphia, started a layout in Kansas City, constructed a layout in Huntington that never got all the track laid, and built yet another unfinished layout in Jacksonville (located in a room we built onto our house for that purpose — thank you, Nancy!). In 1994, I accepted an opportunity to rejoin the railroad signal supply industry in the Kansas City, Missouri, area. Even before moving into our new home, I reconfigured the Jacksonville track plan to fit my new “glorious” finished basement with the intent of building a railroad suitable for regular operations.

By the time I retired for real in 2009, benchwork, track, and wiring was about 50 percent finished. Retirement provided the opportunity to get construction moving, and my long-suppressed interest in the Achievement Program began to make itself known. One of my Chessie/CSX friends and colleague, NMRA member Eric Peterson, talked about the AP, and he encouraged me to get involved. I decided to test the waters with the Golden Spike Award and was amazed to find that I had already met almost all the requirements. I received that recognition in October 2010 and began the nine-year journey to Master Model Railroader®.

At this time, I began attending the Mid-Continent Region Turkey Creek Division meetings. I immediately wished that I had done that many years before because the people I met and the things I learned changed my entire outlook on the hobby. The next step was thinking about which certificates I was interested in, and
The NMRA has a complete set of model railroading publications from the very earliest days and a complete collection of NMRA publications from 1947 to the present. However, our collection of NMRA publications for the period 1935–1946 is incomplete. We are seeking donated materials from members who might still have NMRA publications from this period. Send them to NMRA Headquarters and an acknowledgement letter will be sent to you.

We need your 1935–1946 NMRA publications.