



NMRA BULLETIN

An Official Publication of the National Model Railroad Association

MAY 2006

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Ron Tuff Earns MMR 366

Ron was introduced to model railroading with a Christmas present from his parents, a Tri-ang train set equipped with rocket launcher and bomb-carrying flatcars. His earliest recollections of the prototype were riding on a Canadian Pacific Railway speeder, accompanying his grandfather, a sectionman on the Port Burwell Subdivision.

When the family moved from Montreal to Hamilton, Ontario, Ron met next-door neighbor and model railroader Ray Hoadley. Ray took him to visit his local model railroad club, the H.O. Model Engineers Society (H.O.M.E.S.). A few years later in 1973, Ron joined the club, as a junior member, and the NMRA. Numerous friendships resulted as his interest in modelling and the prototype developed. Vacations from high school included several full-week railfanning trips with different club members to the northeastern United States, the most memorable

to photograph the six pre-Conrail roads before those companies became fallen flags.

After completing high school, Ron accompanied his grandparents to Vancouver on the CPR "Canadian." It was during this first trip to B.C. that he experienced the majesty of the mountain scenery and British Columbia Railway's Alcos, a perfect model-railway recipe.

Upon his return, Ray Hoadley offered Ron a job application for a switchman's position at the Stelco, Canada's largest steel producer. This was like a dream come true, a young model railroader working with prototype trains. After only a couple of years, Ron was promoted to conductor then yardmaster.

Married to Jeanette in 1984, their honeymoon was spent exploring British Columbia. The constant support and encouragement from Jeanette and grown sons Steve and Danny, particularly when project results were less than ideal, was



greatly appreciated. When the family was ready to move a few years ago, the under-construction layout was nearly ready to be judged for the Electrical Engineering AP Certificate. Jeanette continued packing while Ron worked very hard to finish the requirements only to tear down the layout for the following week's move.

In the past 33 years at H.O.M.E.S., Ron has held every executive position but has remained

BULLETIN BOARD

Achievement Program

NMRA AP Certificates

Report for February 2006

*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

Golden Spike

- Charles Buschmann, Crestwood, KY
- Carl Baumgart, Concord, NC
- Jack Monette, Concord, NC
- Larry Benson, Tallahassee, FL
- Paul Beverly, Ochlochnee, GA
- Barrett Johnson, Tallahassee, FL
- Sam Miller, Tallahassee, FL

Master Builder - Motive Power

- Donald Taschner, St. Louis, MO
- Marlin Costello, Fresno, CA

Master Builder - Cars

- Jerry Ashley, Louisville, KY

Master Builder - Structures

- None this month

Master Builder - Scenery

- James Harrington, New Albany, IN

- James Flynn, Belton, MO
- Dave Roeder, Webster Groves, MO
- Gilbert Brauch, Jr., Hickory, NC
- Vincent Gallogly, Trumbull, CT*
- Dick Roberts, El Cajon, CA

Master Builder - Prototype Modeler

- None this month

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

- Gene Sing, Cary, NC
- Dick Roberts, El Cajon, CA
- Dennis Little, Ft. Myers, FL

Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

- Jerry Ashley, Louisville, KY
- Gary Metcalf, Louisville, KY
- Dave Roeder, Webster Groves, MO
- Jack Monette, Concord, NC*
- Gene Sing, Cary, NC
- Dick Roberts, El Cajon, CA

Chief Dispatcher

- Trevor Jones, New Palestine, IN
- Mark Preussler, Sheboygan, WI

Association Official

- Michael Berg, Littleton, CO*

Association Volunteer

- Ralph Bracewell, Louisville, KY*
- Barry Wood, Cincinnati, OH*
- David Derway, Cameron, NC
- Christopher Roeben, Fitchburg, WI*
- Michael Berg, Littleton, CO

Model Railroad Author

- Jerry Ashley, Louisville, KY
- Earl Mullins, Hastings, NE
- Peter Magoun, Traverse City, MI
- John MacDougall, St. Helena, CA*

Master Model Railroader

- George Pierson, Blue Island, IL
- Marlin Costello, Fresno, CA

Membership Thermometer

	Total	Count Change
Apr. 2005	19,284	.2
May 2005	19,404	.120
Jun. 2005	19,471	.67
Jul. 2005	19,389	.(82)
Aug. 2005	18,654	.(735)
Sep. 2005	19,298	.644
Oct. 2005	19,352	.54
Nov. 2005	19,399	.47
Dec. 2005	19,337	.(62)
Jan. 2006	19,579	.242
Feb. 2006	19,430	.(149)
Mar. 2006	19,442	.12

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – CONTINUED

Secretary for the last 26 years. The club provided an opportunity to learn to hand-lay track, build scenery and participate in formal operating sessions on the Bay City Railway, all resulting in AP certificates.

Membership in the International Division of the Niagara Frontier Region provided an opportunity to present clinics, write articles and be a committee member on three regional and one national convention in Southern Ontario.

In 1990, Ron joined the newly formed British Columbia Railway Historical & Technical Society SIG. Meeting modellers with the same prototype interest led to the construction of a 500-square-foot, double-deck, HO-scale layout based on the mid-1980s British Columbia Railway and completion of the last AP Certificate, with encouragement from fellow modellers Dave Paterson and Ken Bell.

Today, Ron still enjoys railfanning and often makes it a theme for family vacations, such as rid-

ing the Rocky Mountaineer in 2003. Besides photography, he stays current with advancements in the hobby through at least a dozen different periodicals.

The NMRA's Achievement Program has created an excellent forum to learn and practice new skills. Ron holds AP Certificates in Cars, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Model Railroad Author, Chief Dispatcher and Association Volunteer. 📷

George Pierson Earns MMR 367

Although George grew up with Lionel trains and a later HO 4x8 layout, college, family, and career put his modeling interests on hold. His prototype railroad interests focused on the state of Pennsylvania. The Keystone State has lots of fascinating shortlines, but what really hooked George was the state's many narrow-gauge lines. Eventually, he authored a book on one, the Tuscarora Valley RR, which operated in central PA from 1893 until 1934.

Taking a teaching job in philosophy in the Chicago area in 1987 meant being far from the area of George's favorite prototypes. But it gave birth to the idea of re-creating the prototype in 1:87 scale. Thus, George got back into modeling and, in 1992, he started building his version of the Tuscarora

Valley and the Pennsylvania RR in central Pa. Modeling a prototype as it was in 1920 has been a rewarding experience. The area of the TVRR offers lots to model – the mountains, forests, farms, and towns of the region, the PRR Middle Division, including the Denholm coal wharf, the TVRR running from Port Royal to Blairs Mills, a branch logging line, and some fictitious connections to other central PA n.g. lines, like the East Broad Top and the Newport & Shermans Valley RR. Using a space about 16' x 35', George has created a little piece of his favorite railroad sites.

About six years into this project, George started checking out the NMRA Achievement Program and was pleasantly surprised to discover that a good deal



of what he was doing qualified for Merit Awards, and so began his work toward the MMR.

Currently, George continues to work on his layout, parts of which have appeared in his articles for various modeling magazines. He also participates in a local round-robin series of operating sessions. Next to the pleasures of modeling a 1920's-era prototype, George's favorite aspect of the hobby has become timetable/train order operations with a fast clock. On his own layout, it has transformed his HO_{n3} TVRR point-to-point line into a "real" railroad that keeps crews busy on a Saturday night and comes pretty close to re-creating the pace and feel of narrow-gauge railroading in the East.

George could not have accomplished what he has without the encouragement of a number of friends in the hobby. Al Kamm, Jr., MMR, and Myron Weber were especially helpful. Their encouragement got him to try aspects of the hobby, like scratch-building locomotives and hand-laying track, that George thought he couldn't do. The members of the operating group – Frank Criswell, Jim Kubajak, Tom Grant, Bernie Levine, Ed Lorence, Greg Garcia, Jim Pink, John Lindemulder, Al Kempf, John Massura, and Pat Mehegan – have also helped make this achievement possible. 📷

