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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT
*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement
FEBRUARY 2008

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Lone Star Region
Jeffrey Nichols, San Antonio, Texas

Midwest Region
Harold Helland, Hawthorn Woods, Illinois
Michael Nicoletti, Ingalls, Indiana
John Pancini, Avon, Indiana
Brad Philbrick, Fishers, Indiana
Steve Poe, Speedway, Indiana
Jack Simpson, Indianapolis, Indiana

Rocky Mountain Region
Frank Serpe, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Southeastern Region
Charles Mason, Rosswell, Georgia
Lee Schramm, Bogart, Georgia

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MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES
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Gary Burdette, Point Pleasant, West Virginia

Southeastern Region
Benton Bartlett, Brevard, North Carolina

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Kelly Lloyd, Lakelands NSW Australia

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E. Lin Young, Gallipolis, Ohio

Mid Eastern Region
James Allen, Huntersville, North Carolina

Southeastern Region
Glen Hall, Pensacola, Florida

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Mid-Continent Region
Brad Morneau, Overland Park, Kansas

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL
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Sam Mangion, Buff Point NSW Australia

Mid-Central Region
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Mid-Continent Region
Brad Morneau, Overland Park, Kansas

North Central Region
Joel Goldberg, West Bloomfield, Michigan

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David Leider, Prospect Heights, Illinois
Richard Sweet, Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

Northeastern Region
Chuck Diljak, Wayne, New Jersey

Rocky Mountain Region
Shirley Stilley,* Colorado Springs, Colorado

Southeastern Region
Chris Brooks,* Clarkesville, Georgia

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North Central Region
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Pacific Northwest Region
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HEADQUARTERS

**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)
Hartford July 5 - July 11, 2009
Milwaukee July 11 - July 17, 2010
Sacramento July 3 - July 9, 2011
Grand Rapids July 29 - Aug 4, 2012

MMR EARNED



DONALD C. TASCHNER, MMR 403

That started me working on my other AP certificates, and I won many more in local regional and national contests. I have been a member of the NMRA since 1953, and I am presently member of MCoR and the Gateway Division in St. Louis, Missouri, where I serve as the Gateway Division's contest chairman and AP chairman.

I have made numerous good friends in my many years of modeling. I enjoy building railroad models as well as RC model airplanes and boats. I am a member of the Admirals RC Model Boat Club and the River City Flyers RC Airplane Club. I am very proud of receiving my MMR. I consider it an honor to belong to this select group of fellow modelers. I hope and encourage all members of the NMRA to pursue getting their MMR. It just takes a little work, dedication, and time writing the paperwork to complete the things needed to get your AP certificates. In conclusion, I look forward to meeting the other MMRs, old and new, as well as the remaining years of modeling and being a member of the NMRA.

Don has earned the following AP certificates: Master Builder—Motive Power, Master Builder—Cars, Master Builder—Scenery, Master Builder—Structures, Model Railroad Engineer—Civil, Model Railroad Engineer—Electrical, and Association Volunteer.

CONVENTION CONTESTS

Have We Got Some Contests for You at Anaheim!

By Bob Hamm, MMR
NMRA National Contest Chairman

It looks like the Anaheim Special is shaping up to be a terrific convention thanks to the efforts of the good folks out in the PSR and the various national committees. We on the national contest staff have also been busy making plans for a somewhat expanded program to provide you, the attendees, with a menu of contest choices that will tickle your fancy and entice you to bring a model or two to share with your fellow hobbyists.

For you PSR guys and gals, and we're hoping a lot of you will join in the festivities, the **PSR MODEL CONTEST** will be run in parallel with the national competition. The judging will all be done in one pool, but there will be a full spectrum of both place and special awards just for the PSR folks. And, judging by some of the modeling I've

seen from the great southwest, more than one or two of you will have your arms full carrying away the both PSR and national awards.

Moving on to the national attractions, the first event I would like to put out there is the **MODEL SHOWCASE**. This is a non-competitive, display-only event. Bring one of your favorite models. It doesn't have to be scratchbuilt or even complete, but something that would be interesting to your fellow modelers. Paperwork will be minimal, just enough to tell who you are and identify the model. All entrants will be recognized and receive a certificate of participation. Why do it? Why not, particularly if you have never brought anything into the contest room and may be a little apprehensive. We've done this event for years in the NER and it's very popular.

The **PEOPLE'S CHOICE** is next on the menu. This is a popular vote contest and includes six categories: locomotives, rolling stock, cabooses, structures, dioramas, and train (yup, a full train with engine and cars). This one's for the folks that may be too busy or may just not want to scratchbuild and put their gang-buster models together with lots of commercial parts and pieces. Again, the paperwork is pretty much zip.

First place awards will be given in the first five categories, and first, second, and third place awards for the favorite train. In addition, there will be five special awards, including the Creativity Award for the best structure of your own design, the Photo Match Award for best match-up of model and photo (this one's for you prototype modelers, and yes, you do need a photo.), the prestigious "Thumbs award" by our own Milt Moore, and finally, The People's Choice - Best of Show.

This contest is about sizzle; the neater and more spectacular it looks, the more votes you get. And, just to keep everyone on their toes, the models entered in the judged contest are also automatically eligible for the **PEOPLE'S CHOICE** where *the only judges are your fellow modelers*. The only requirement is that they like what they see. If you are a first timer to the contest room and want to taste a little competition but aren't sure of the judged contest, try this one. Bring your models in early because voting starts Tuesday morning.

And finally on the model side of the menu we have the **JUDGED COMPETITION**. This is the crown jewel, the Olympics of railroad model building with all the guts and

glory, the triumphs of winning, and the agony of defeat. Well, maybe that's overstating it a little. However, the models are subjected to technical judging in accordance with the Achievement Program guidelines and point scoring system. It's vigorous, but uniform and fair. For those unfamiliar with the system, you can view the actual guidelines we use by going to the NMRA web site.

Each of the five factors (construction, conformity, detail, appearance and scratchbuilt) is judged separately by a judging team comprised of a team leader and at least two others. The team leaders and at least one of the other two are experienced and very familiar with the guidelines, and all judging is presided over and reviewed by Allen Gross, the National Chief Judge and myself. Prior to the start of judging, all judges are required to attend a refresher clinic presented by the chief judge. Another clinic on contest judging for prospective judges and interested attendees will be given on Tuesday evening between 7-8PM of the convention. With few exceptions, all of the folks involved in the judging have entered the contest before and know how much emotion is riding on each entry. They pledge to respect your model and do their best to be fair and give you the best possible score they can.

We try to keep the paperwork to a minimum, but because *how* you built your model is an important part of *how* we judge it, providing us with a good written description in the form requested is very important to achieving a good score. We typically have six to eight minutes to judge each factor of each model and need to make our evaluation efficiently. Likewise, writing volumes about your model can be similarly counterproductive because we don't have the time to read more than a paragraph or two and may miss something important if it's buried. My staff and I stand ready early in the week to answer questions or otherwise help you in filling out the forms, or if you choose to do that at home before the convention, which is actually a very good idea, we would be happy to assist you by phone or e-mail. Likewise, I will be giving another clinic entitled "Filling out the Forms to Finish First" on Monday night at 10-11 PM.

While the competition and paperwork may seem intimidating to the newcomer, the rewards for winning are pretty nice. There are first, second, and third place awards in 11 model categories and 23, count 'em, 23

special awards, including four just for kit-bashed models and the most prestigious of all the overall Best in Show or Gold Award. And, it's a great way to get your merit awards for the Achievement Program.

Sound daunting? Well it's really not so bad for newcomers. Just think, the contest is about what you can build—not who you know, how much you spend, or how many conventions you have attended. A skilled first-time entrant can be the top award winner! So come on down. We don't bite and the water's fine.

The **PHOTO SHOOT-OFF** is next on the menu. This popular event is a judged competition for prints and slides. It includes six categories: Model Print - Color, Model Print - Black & White, Prototype Print - Color, Prototype - Black & White, Model - Slide, and Prototype - Slide.

Judging is done by an experienced team, who carefully evaluates entries on each of ten factors, including such aspects as impact, composition, artistic approach, lighting, and so forth, in accordance with a carefully laid out procedure that can be found at the NMRA web site. As with the judged model competition, the folks that do the photo contest take their job very seriously and strive to be as fair and uniform as possible in their evaluations. They've all been there, too.

A full spectrum of place awards await the winners in each category, plus a Best of Show, so start digging through your albums and slide trays and bring some of your favorites to Anaheim. They don't take up any room in your suitcases, and who knows, maybe you'll have throw out some of your old socks to make room for the award plaques on the way home.

The **PASS CONTEST** is another nice little affair for those creative folks who design and print passes for their model railroads. Judging is done by the photo folks, and first, second, and third place plaques await the winners. They don't take up too much room either, so why not take yours along?

Modular model railroading has become a popular activity across the country, and our contest menu features a competition dubbed the **MODULE SHOWDOWN** for those that are brought to the National Train Show on Friday and Saturday. However, they must be entered in the contest. They are evaluated by a team of judges at the show, and two sets of first, second, and third place awards are given out for modules built by individuals and groups.

The last selection on our menu of contest attractions, but certainly not the least, is the **ARTS & CRAFTS COMPETITION**. This popular event is aimed specifically at the spouse or significant other who may be involved in and practice various artistic or craft-type activities. The entries are evaluated by a team of judges based on construction and materials, complexity, finishing and display, and finally neatness.

Within this competition we have nine categories each with first, second, and third place awards: Railroadiana - original, pattern, and kit; Needlework - original, pattern, and kit; and General - original, pattern, and kit. Special awards include the Youth Award for best entry submitted by a person under 18 and the Best of Show Award.

And, if you think this is a slam dunk, think again. The competition is substantial with many return entrants, and the articles are gorgeous.

So there you have it, the whole enchilada. There are so many awards and plaques and categories and competitions that I literally need to spreadsheet to keep them straight. We, the contest staff, honestly want you to come to the room, choose the events that appeal to your interests and philosophies (a little competition, a lot, or none at all) and go for the gold. I will personally pledge to you that my staff and I will do our darnest to treat your entry, whatever it might be, with fairness and respect and in the events that are judged by my staff to render the fairest and most uniform score we can, so as I said before, come on in, the water's fine. 🍷

