



# NMRA BULLETIN

An Official Publication of the National Model Railroad Association

**AUGUST 2005**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### New Board of Directors Swings Into Action

The NMRA has successfully completed phase one of the Long Range Plan (LRP) with the completion of the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in Cincinnati. The former Board of Trustees (BOT) initiated the plan in 2003.

Highlights of phase one of the LRP include the adoption and implementation of the new regulations, election and seating of a new Board of Directors to replace the BOT, presentation of the recommendations of the Life After the Long Range Plan (LALRP) Committee, rebuilding the volunteer staffing of the NMRA Technical Department, implementation of a number of cost-control measures, and adoption of a plan to enable a long-range continuation of a balanced budget.

#### Board Vetoes Dues Increase

A new Board was seated at the four-day BOD meeting, which took place before and during the NMRA National Convention in Cincinnati on June 30, July 1–2, and July 6. NMRA president John Roberts and vice president Mike Brestel were pleased to find that, as hoped, the “streamlined” nine-member BOD could resolve business concerns more rapidly than under the previous structure.

For example, when it appeared that there would be a sizable budget shortfall for 2006, the Board first considered a possible dues increase and/or eliminating some major association activities to reduce costs. Since neither action was

appealing, a late-night financial subcommittee meeting ensued. The result of these deliberations is a much better plan to balance the 2006 budget without resorting to a dues increase or a program cut.

#### Avoiding a Dues Increase for 2006

The Board decided to pay off the mortgage on the Headquarters Building in Chattanooga, Tenn., using funds from the investment account. That account will be rebuilt each month using a repayment schedule slightly lower than the monthly mortgage payment. A side benefit of the early payoff is a savings of several thousand dollars in inter-

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## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### A Gathering of Masters



For the first time ever a reception honoring all MMRs was held at the Cincinnati Limited NMRA National Convention. “The First Annual President’s Reception for MMRs,” the gathering featured inspiring talks from both NMRA President John Roberts and outgoing Technical Department Chairman Rutger Friberg, who stressed that MMRs need to be ambassadors of both the hobby and the NMRA. In addition, Robert Chait, MMR 43, received special recognition for being the earliest Master Model Railroader in attendance. Photo by Dave Burman

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS — CONTINUED

est charges over the next three years. Thanks to the creativity and diligence of the former Board of Trustees, the new Board of Directors, and the officers, we have managed to operate four years since the last dues increase, all while maintaining a balanced budget. This was accomplished despite an accumulated U.S. inflation rate of nearly 11 percent from 2001 until the present.

## Strategic Planning Committee Formed

The Life After the Long Range Plan Committee

*The NMRA has made strong and determined strides toward a much better and brighter future over the last several years.*

completed its two-year effort and delivered its recommendations to the BOD for further action. Among those recommendations was the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee, headed by At-Large Director, United States, Charlie Getz. This committee will initiate its activities this fall with a professionally-run training session for the committee members. The LALRP committee was then dissolved.

## Phase Two of the Long Range Plan

With the completion of phase one of the LRP, work begins on phase two. Starting in March, the NMRA will begin \$2 annual returns to regions for each qualified member. The returns will be made in installments paid twice a year. Another part of the LRP, the Howell Day Model Railroad Museum, is also moving ahead. The Museum Committee reports work on finding a permanent home is continuing. Exciting things are also in store for the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library, which plans a fund-raising program to promote library services, and to reduce its dependence upon dues for funding.

## New Direction for Scale Rails

Under the leadership of Publications Chairman Larry DeYoung, *Scale Rails* will begin to take a new direction and focus on member accomplishments and activities without becoming merely a "house organ." (The NMRA Bulletin section of the magazine will continue to cover matters related to internal business.) Special emphasis will be placed on showcasing model railroads, prototype facilities, and non-rail destinations that will be featured on future convention tours.

Expanded coverage of the accomplishments and skills of those who have attained Master Model Railroader status is also planned so that other members can grow from their experiences and guidance. In addition, coverage of members,

including manufacturers, importers, and retailers, who have unusually interesting personal or professional backgrounds will be expanded.

A major goal of this new direction is to encourage convention attendance, as this is where members can get together to meet leaders in the hobby, share modeling techniques, enjoy camaraderie, and learn about new products and services. How-to features will continue to be published, but every effort will be made to relate them to topics that will be covered in future convention clinics or can be

seen on layout tours. It's important to understand, however, that magazine articles will be designed so that those who are unable to attend conventions will still enjoy and benefit from the articles and departments.

Larry DeYoung, *Scale Rails* Editor Terry Bacus, and several department heads and Board members met to discuss ways to improve the communications between the national, regional, and division periodicals. This needs to be a two-way street, everyone agreed, with important local news becoming readily available to regional and national publications, and nationally originated information quickly reaching down to local organizations.

Articles published in NMRA Special Interest Group periodicals or descriptions of the SIGs' activities deemed of wide interest may be reprinted in *Scale Rails*. Again, the emphasis will be on themes that relate to and support future NMRA division, region, SIG, or national convention activities.

## Tech Department Moves Forward

The Technical Department has been dramatically re-staffed with more than 50 volunteers through the efforts of Rutger Friberg, who stepped down as head of the Technical Department at the convention. The Board commended Rutger for his years of outstanding service and looks forward to working with him in other capacities.

The newly re-staffed Technical Department will begin moving

actively forward in a number of areas to develop new standards, update existing standards, continue with the work in the rapidly evolving DCC field, and become an advocate for the model railroad consumer.

## National Convention Management Team Sets Sights on 2006

The 2006 national convention in Philadelphia will be the first managed by the Convention and Trade Show Department headed by Henry Jordan with the strong support of the local host committee. Part of this effort will

be to identify high-quality feature-article material for *Scale Rails* as well as for the commercial press that is related to the next convention.

## Looking ahead

The BOD and officers will continue to work diligently to reduce or eliminate costs while identifying additional sources of revenue outside of member dues. There is a limit to how long this can continue, however, which raises the possibility that a nominal dues or subscription cost increase may be required for 2007 to offset the effects of inflation.

The NMRA has made strong and determined strides toward a much better and brighter future over the last several years. Under the energetic leadership of the officers, BOD, and department heads, our organization will continue to evolve in tune with our hobby and our members' needs and interests. There will be some bumps in the road, but the groundwork has been laid to make positive, long-lasting changes that should bring more enjoyment and value to our members as well as to this hobby that we all share and love. 🚂

### Membership Thermometer

	Total	Count Change
Jul. 2004	19,789	(88)
Aug. 2004	19,823	.34
Sep. 2004	19,545	(278)
Oct. 2004	19,550	.5
Nov. 2004	19,510	(40)
Dec. 2004	19,365	(145)
Jan. 2005	19,478	.135
Feb. 2005	19,462	(16)
Mar. 2005	19,282	(180)
Apr. 2005	19,284	.2
May 2005	19,404	.120
Jun. 2005	19,471	.67

# BULLETINBOARD

## Achievement Program

### NMRA AP Certificates

Report for April 2005

\*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

### Golden Spike

Philip Elliott, Cincinnati, OH  
 David Anderson, Sedan, IA  
 Brad Morneau, Overland Park, KS  
 Charles Day, Potomac Falls, VA  
 Allen Frasch, Freeland, WA  
 Lee Knapp, Clarkston, WA  
 John Cawood, Colorado Springs, CO  
 Phil Johnson, Colorado Springs, CO

### Master Builder - Motive Power

None this month

### Master Builder - Cars

Gerald Schoenberg, Carrollton, TX

### Master Builder - Structures

None this month

### Master Builder - Scenery

Gerald Schoenberg, Carrollton, TX  
 Lawrence Burkholder, Loudon, TN\*  
 Allen Frasch, Freeland, WA\*  
 Brian Block, Las Vegas, NV

### Master Builder - Prototype Modeler

None this month

### Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

Bob Wundrock, Verona, WI  
 Brian Block, Las Vegas, NV

### Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical

Philip Elliott, Cincinnati, OH\*  
 Richard Bourgerie, Noblesville, IN  
 Trevor Jones, New Palestine, IN

### Chief Dispatcher

David Bucher, Downingtown, PA\*  
 Stephen Studley, Bloomington, IN\*

### Association Official

Gary Children, West Allis, WI  
 Frank McCabe, Cherry Valley, IL

Barbara Rothwell, Fitchburg, WI  
 Luana Wilhite, Anderson, IN

### Association Volunteer

Carl Lester, College Station, TX  
 Rick Knight, Huntersville, NC  
 Thomas Morrison, McFarland, WI\*  
 Jane Jacobs, Las Vegas, NV\*

### Model Railroad Author

Tom Browning, Dallas, TX\*

### Master Model Railroader

Gerald Schoenberg, Carrollton, TX  
 Brian Block, Las Vegas, NV

## ACHIEVEMENTPROGRAM

### Gary Shurgold Earns MMR 348

Growing up in Toronto, Gary Shurgold's interest in model railroading was sparked with a train set received at Christmas. Like many model railroaders, he explored other hobbies as well, including model car, plane and ship building.

In 1968 Gary joined the Ontario Provincial Police, and moved to Sarnia, Ont. After settling in he joined the Sarnia Model Railroad Club. With guidance from other members he rediscovered model railroading and joined the NMRA. It was a good fit and he soon became a life member.

Soon after joining, Gary attended his first region convention in Guelph, Ont. There, the Achievement Program caught his eye. Becoming active within the division and the region, he started earning achievement certificates.

In 1981, he was transferred to Chatham, Ont., by the OPP where he was trained and worked as a

Forensic Identification Officer. Joining the Chatham Model Railroad Club, he met Master Model Railroaders Ed Haydon and Don Eastman. With their guidance and persistence he continued working on his achievement program goals.

He retired from the police force in 1998 and decided the time had come to complete his progress toward MMR. He finished his final certificate last December.

"Model railroading has always been and will always be a stress reliever for me. I have enjoyed the fellowship, craftsmanship and encouragement of my fellow model railroaders," he said.

Gary has received certificates for Association Official, Association Volunteer, Model Railroad Author, Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder-Scenery, Master Builder-Motive Power and Model Railroad Engineer-Civil.



"I am pleased to say that the Chatham Model Railroad Club can boast of three MMRs," he said. "I am currently encouraging my grandson in the hobby of model railroading and hope one day he will become a Master Model Railroader."

### Jim Clements Earns MMR 351

Jim Clements was brought up in Detroit, Mich., during the Depression. His first train set was given to him by an aunt one Christmas during the 30s. It featured a used, green Lionel box cab. He still has some of that set.

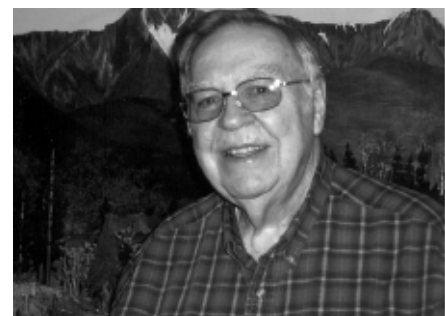
In 1940 he received a Lionel Scout set and some track and turnouts. While he was working on his Lionel pike, he also had an interest in model airplanes.

"I built many Megow WWI model kits that I was able to purchase for ten cents, plus five cents for a tube of glue.

"It was surprising what we did with the little rubber-band-powered model airplanes," he said. "Then I got into free flight and U-control, which became expensive to maintain and keep flying.

"This got me back to trains for many years, in fact till now. [Trains] were less expensive than model airplanes at the time, because you could build car kits and they wouldn't get lost or crash as much. Little did I know at the time how expensive model trains would become."

After finishing high school and a semester of college, he joined the Army Air Force and was sent to Europe as WWII ended.



"Our unit set up and operated Air Force Radar units in Germany in 1946. We also built, moved

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# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – CONTINUED

and operated a mobile radar unit up to the Russian border in 1947 before the Berlin Airlift started in June of 1948.

“While in the Army Air Force I had to ride a number of troop trains, which helped to pique my interest in model railroading.

“After my stint in the Air Force I returned to college and married the girl...who lived next door. We have been married 56 years, raised four children and have seven grandchildren. Most have taken part in my railroading in one form or another. I worked for General Motors for 42 years as a mechanical engineer before retiring 18 years ago,” he said.

A life member of the NMRA and the Colorado Railroad Museum, Jim belongs to the Stoney Creek Model Railroad Club and Division 8 of the

NCR, (where he served as editor for the division’s newsletter, *The Car House*). He also takes part in an informal Monday night group and is active in a monthly round-robin club.

“I enjoy modeling Colorado’s San Juan area in a generic sense. My layout is HOn3, dual gauge, except for narrow-gauge in the mountain areas and is approximately 95 percent complete,” he said.

“I became interested in narrow gauge when three of our daughters lived in the Denver area. We made many visits to the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden and tripped all around the narrow-gauge country riding trains whenever possible and taking photos.

“My very supportive wife, Marjorie, always tells people that we bought a basement with a house

on top so I could build my latest layout, the ‘Sugar Spring Mining Co. Railroad,’” he said.

“Marjorie also likes to tell everyone about [the] large ‘pet rock’ that we moved each time we moved to a new home. I make most of my rock molds from our pet rock. Isn’t that what large rocks are for?” he asks.

Jim earned Certificates for Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Master Builder-Scenery, Association Volunteer, Model Railroad Author, Chief Dispatcher Master Builder-Structures and Master Builder-Cars.

“I also have a very supportive group of fellow model railroaders to thank for their continued support and encouragement,” he said. 📷

## Gerald Schoenberg Earns MMR 352

Gerald (Jerry) Schoenberg started a long love of model railroading as a teenager growing up in New Jersey. There, he built his first Lionel basement layout featuring a four-train operation and a working volcano. He said he remembers well, upon joining NMRA, the package of “Standards & RP’s” that came in the mail.

Upon entering the job world the flame began to burn again and, in 1966, Jerry built his second layout, this time in HO. Because of the close proximity to PRR equipment and a friendly hostler, Jerry became a permanent Pennsy fan. Jerry said moving companies hated handling the 12- by 15-foot layout that he moved to 10 different homes.

After retirement, Jerry settled down in Carrollton, Tx., and was delighted to find good hobby shops and model railroad clubs. After joining and serving in several clubs, he became active in operations. All this led to rejoining the NMRA in

1995 and starting his new 15- by 30-foot Allegheny Railroad in 1996. Fifty years from that basement layout, Jerry and his wife, Mary Lou, have made model railroading a big part of their lives.

Achieving MMR started off easy, he said. As Operations Chair at a large club, Chief Dispatcher was a logical first stop. As track and electrical were completed on his layout, he took on the requirements for Model Railroad Engineer-Civil and Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical. Jerry wrote many articles for the regional magazine and produced a video for convention use. He is active in both clinic presentations and open house visits. This, along with years of service on the LSR Board, produced Association Official, Association Volunteer and Model Railroad Author. Finally in May, a section of his layout was completed with scenery and was judged for completion of Master Builder-Scenery.

Jerry said Master Builder-Cars was the most challenging. In this day of model railroading, one has to turn the clock back many years to find articles to learn about scratchbuilding cars. To qualify for this final certificate, a larger than expected amount of time and dedication was necessary.



When asked the reason he enjoys the NMRA, Jerry immediately answers, “Friendship.” He says that relationships, through reaching out past local activities, are a great part of the hobby. In order to return some of these friendships and promote the hobby, Jerry has been active in promoting Operation groups, the local Council of Model Railroad Clubs and the Lone Star Region. He has served as LSR Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President and is presently President. Jerry says that Model Railroading is the second best thing that ever happened to him.

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### Learn More About the NMRA Achievement Program

Besides recognizing the craftsmanship of our hobby, the NMRA’s Achievement Program is a great way to learn new skills. To find out how you can get started on the road to MMR, visit the NMRA Web site at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and click on the Achievement Program link under Education in the navigation box on the left side of the page. 📷