



# NMRA BULLETIN

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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.

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

\*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement  
JUNE 2008

### MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES Northeastern Region

Bruce DeYoung, West Milford, New Jersey

### Pacific Northwest Region

Thomas Hawkins, Annacortes, Washington

### MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY Mid-Central Region

John Stuber, Ostrander, Ohio

### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL

#### North Central Region

Marv Linke, Macomb, Michigan

#### Northeastern Region

Howard Dwyer, Farmingville, New York  
Donald Irace, North Scituate, Rhode Island

### Pacific Northwest Region

Thomas Hawkins\*, Annacortes, Washington

### CHIEF DISPATCHER

#### North Central Region

Allen Crowley, Sterling Heights, Michigan

### Northeastern Region

Thomas Piccirillo, Warren, New Jersey

### ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

#### Mid-Central Region

Jerry Doyle, Huntington, West Virginia

## MMR EARNED



RON PLIES EARNS MMR NO. 409

My love of trains starts, like most model railroaders, at an early age. I was born and raised in Southern California alongside the Pacific Electric El Segundo Branch. Seeing those box electrics pulling a long string of tank cars up the grade from Standard Oil to Vermont Avenue in south central Los Angeles, with the help of a Southern Pacific Mogul on the head end, made a real impression on me as a young boy. The biggest impression was left by the Southern Pacific *Coast Daylight*. My family would often take a trip to visit my uncle in Santa Barbara. Many times we would be overtaken by that beautiful and wonderful red, orange, and black streamline train doing well over 80 mph just north of Ventura, California. Many called it the most beautiful train in the world, and if you ever saw it in person, there would be little to argue about. I still have a real love for the Southern Pacific and the Coast Line.

My first train set was a Lionel set of Santa Fe F3s. During my high school years, I found a local hobby shop just down the street from the original Athearn plant on Western Avenue. I saw a wonderful new HO scale SP trailertrain caboose in silver from Athearn and ever since it has been HO all the way. In the early 1980s, I built a module of the trestle at Gaviota just west of Santa Barbara, on the Southern Pacific Coast Line. Photos of the trestle were published twice in *Model Railroader*: January 1983 and February 1985. This same module was also published in the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society's *Trainline* on two different occasions. In the 1990s, I began building two

modules of Port Cost, a small engine terminal on the Southern Pacific mainline connecting the Bay Area to Sacramento. The modules have traveled from Portland, Oregon, to San Diego, California, over the years to different train shows and conventions. The modules were featured on the front cover of *Railroad Model Craftsman* in July and August of 2000. The modules have appeared in a number of other publications. I also wrote an article for *Railroad Model Craftsman* on the Southern Pacific's all-Pullman train, *The Lark*, between San Francisco and Los Angeles for the March 2004 issue. I am currently working with my club, "The Eel River Valley Model Railroaders," in Ferndale, Humboldt County, California. We are building a layout that is a historical representation of our local railroad the Northwestern Pacific here on the north coast of California. The Fortuna agent's home that I built for our Fortuna module, has been shown in *Mainline Modeler's* August 2004 issue and the SPH&TS *Trainline* winter 2008 issue. I hope to find the time soon to submit additional articles for publication on the NWP.

On a personal note, I have been married to my lovely wife, Carol, for 42 years. She has kindly put up with me and my hobby. We have three grown children, two in the Boise, Idaho, area and one in Portland, Oregon. Our four grandchildren in the Boise area, all love Thomas the Tank Engine, which gives me great hope for the future of our hobby. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pasadena College, now Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California, and a master's degree from the University of San Francisco. I drove tour bus for the Gray Line of Los Angeles and California Parlor Car Tours, giving tours of Los Angeles and California to earn my way through college. I was on staff in a number of churches as a youth minister, served as a juvenile probation officer, and have owned my own insurance agency for the last 28 years. I am currently serving as the President of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

Ron has earned the following certificates: *Model Railroad Author, Master Builder — Scenery, Master Builder — Prototype Models, Model Railroad Engineer — Electrical, Master Builder — Structures, Association Official, and Master Builder — Cars.*