

# NMRA BULLETIN

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2015 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

2015—Portland, Oregon • August 23–30 • www.nmra2015portland.org

Train Show Booth Reservations—Susan Straub, Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

423-892-2846 • nmrrants@yahoo.com

• 2016—Indianapolis, IN • 2017—Orlando, FL • 2018—Kansas City, MO

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2014

#### GOLDEN SPIKE

##### European Region

Steffen Franger, Ludwigshafen, Germany  
Pit Karges, Junglinster, Luxemburg  
Jack Treves, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France

##### Mid-Central Region

John Helton, Louisville, Kentucky  
Albert Oswald, Louisville, Kentucky  
Charles Shane, Louisville, Kentucky  
Steve Zapytowski, Kent, Ohio

##### Southeastern Region

Dan Berman, Marietta, Georgia  
Richard Miller, Gainesville, Florida  
Dwight Sedgwick, N. Fort Myers, Florida

#### MASTER BUILDER — MOTIVE POWER

##### Lone Star Region

Jerry Wilson, Kyle, Texas

#### MASTER BUILDER — CARS

##### Lone Star Region

Jerry Wilson, Kyle, Texas

##### Southeastern Region

Howard Garner, Pickens, South Carolina

#### MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Robert Stafford, Marysville, Washington  
Tom Hawkins, Anacortes, Washington  
Steve Stark, Nanoose Bay, British Columbia

##### Mid-Eastern Region

Seth Gartner, Charlotte, North Carolina

#### MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES

##### Lone Star Region

Leon Bangma, McKinney, Texas

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Allen Frasch, Freeland, Washington

#### MASTER BUILDER — PROTOTYPE MODELS

##### Mid-Eastern Region

Seth Gartner, Charlotte, North Carolina

#### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — CIVIL

##### Lone Star Region

Jerry Wilson, Kyle, Texas

##### Mid-Eastern Region

Seth Gartner, Charlotte, North Carolina

##### Northeastern Region

David Metal, Melville, New York

##### Pacific Northwest Region

John White, Anacortes, Washington

#### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL

##### Mid-Eastern Region

Seth Gartner, Charlotte, North Carolina

##### Niagara Frontier Region

Richard Sparrow, Fonthill, Ontario

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Robert Stafford, Marysville, Washington  
Steve Stark, Nanoose Bay, British Columbia

#### CHIEF DISPATCHER

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Steve Stark, Nanoose Bay, British Columbia

#### ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

##### Mid-Continent Region

James Van Delden, Wayne, Nebraska

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Steve Stark, Nanoose Bay, British Columbia

##### Rocky Mountain Region

John Griffith, Aurora, Colorado

#### ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

##### Northeastern Region

Erich Whitney, Derry, New Hampshire

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Jack Tingstad, Coupeville, Washington  
John White, Anacortes, Washington

#### MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

##### Lone Star Region

Michael Ross, Ft. Worth, Texas

##### Mid-Continent Region

Murray Bouschlicher, Iowa City, Iowa

##### Pacific Northwest Region

Steve Stark, Nanoose Bay, British Columbia

#### AP QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the Achievement Program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager. If you still have questions, contact Frank Koch at [fjkoch@hotmail.com](mailto:fjkoch@hotmail.com). If you prefer to write, contact Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.

## MMR EARNED



### WILLIAM "BILL" MESSECAR, MMR #543

Like most of you, my model railroading journey began with a Lionel train set under the Christmas tree set up by Mom and Dad in our St. Louis, Missouri, home when I was eight. We moved to Portland, Oregon, several years later, and I found an interest in building model airplanes. The

next step in my journey came when I discovered an interesting hobby shop in my neighborhood called Vic's. At Vic's, I found interesting HO freight kits to build, *Model Railroader* magazine, and a helpful staff to answer my questions. *MR* had many interesting articles on building cars for a dollar, as well as structures — I was hooked.

After completing high school, I attended Linfield College, graduating in Math, then on to graduate school at Washington State and a job at Lockheed California Co. in Burbank, California. By this time, I was married with a young family and bought a house with a garage — perfect for my first layout. Again a wonderful hobby shop in North Hollywood played a significant role in allowing me to interest six other modelers in building a layout in my garage. I also began traveling to nearby railroad locations to take photos of Southern Pacific and Santa Fe.

When we moved to the East Coast five years later, I found new modeling friends and the NMRA. I first met Bob Arnold, who had built a wonderful large layout in his basement designed for operation. Bob was a WWII hero who had fought in Patton's 3rd Army in Europe. Bob was a wonderful modeler and mentor, who encouraged me to build structures for his layout and enjoy operations.

Another positive modeler influence was Bob Longo, who loved the Santa Fe and had started a newsletter about modeling the ATSF called High Iron. He helped me develop an interest in prototype modeling by researching and writing articles on the prototype and the correct models available to recreate the Santa Fe in HO. I also started corresponding with a Seattle-area Santa Fe modeler and researcher named John Thompson, who loved Cajon Pass as I did.

With a growing family and a busy job working for Pan American World Airways, there wasn't time to build another layout. However, living on the East Coast, I discovered an incredible line of structure kits produced under the brand name Fine Scale Miniatures. I was hooked, and building structures became my passion, both from kits and scratchbuilt.

Another career change and move back to the West Coast enabled me to connect with a group of modelers interested in Santa Fe's history. In 1996, I attended my first NMRA convention at Long Beach, California, and listened to many excellent clinics on modeling techniques. That further fueled my desire to build and complete a Santa Fe-based HO model railroad when I had time and space.

Boeing's acquisition of McDonnell Douglas in 1997 moved me to the Pacific Northwest — where I had grown up — and I worked for Boeing as a Director of Commercial Marketing. I joined the Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club as well as the Puget Sound Model Railroad Engineers

and could work on and operate large HO layouts designed for operation. After retirement in 2001 and a move to our present home in Kent, Washington, I found both the time and space to consider building a layout.

In 2004, I was recruited to help with the NMRA convention in Seattle, PSX 2004. By helping run the clinic program, I had qualified for the Association Volunteer and earned my first Achievement Certificate. The idea for the specific layout plan came from a clinic and articles by layout author David Barrow and his Cat Mountain & Santa Fe presented at an NMRA convention. I had space to build a separate 24-foot by 28-foot garage to house the layout. I had studied Santa Fe operations as well as the citrus industry that supplied so much of the traffic to the railroad in Southern California (Los Angeles Division), so I knew the area and operations I wanted to model. My friend John Thompson and I began hosting a Northwest Santa Fe mini-meet with clinics and model displays. From that group of interested local modelers, I recruited eight helpers to build my model railroad. The train room was built in 2005 and had all the track laid and scenery installed a year later. We started having operating sessions by 2007 ("operate early and often" Byron Henderson had said at an OPSig clinic). I completed the layout by 2010, which includes more than 60 structures, and we've been enjoying operations since then, including hosting a session of Sound Rails in 2012 and 2014.

The next step was to have the layout certified for a Golden Spike award. During that process, the judges urged me to complete the other certificates for MMR. Author, Scenery, Structures, and Chief Dispatcher followed quickly. Although I had built the cars needed for that certificate, it took a stern reminder by Jack Hamilton, MMR, for me to finish the final two in the summer of 2014. I'm now serving on the 4th Division of PNR Board and am looking forward to assisting other modelers to complete their layouts and MMR. Thanks to the NMRA and everyone who assisted me on the journey, especially my modeling buddy Don Hubbard. What a great 60-year journey!

### **AP Certificates –Bill Messecar**

**Association Volunteer**

**Model Railroad – Author**

**Master Builder – Scenery**

**Master Builder – Structures**

**Chief Dispatcher**

**Master Builder – Cars**

**Master Builder –Prototype Models**