

NMRA BULLETIN

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**Have you changed your address or
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2018 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
2018—Kansas City, MO • August 5–12, 2018 • <http://kc2018.org>

Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org

• 2019—Salt Lake City, UT • 2020—St. Louis, MO • 2021—Santa Clara, CA

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

APRIL 2018

GOLDEN SPIKE

Mid-Central Region

Roy Allan, Terrace Park, Ohio
Robert Ashley, Jr., Akron, Ohio

Mid-Eastern Region

John Trout, New Castle, Delaware

Northeastern Region

Mark Herrick, Windham, Connecticut
Nick McGinnis, Weedsport, New York
William McVicker, Solway, New York

MASTER BUILDER - MOTIVE POWER

Sunshine Region

Marty Megregian, DDS, Merritt Island, Florida

MASTER BUILDER – CARS

North Central Region

Gregory Rich, New Baltimore, Michigan

MASTER BUILDER – STRUCTURES

Mid-Central Region

Tom McInerney, Lakewood, Ohio

North Central Region

Gregory Rich, New Baltimore, Michigan

Pacific Southwest Region

Stephen Drees, Tucson, Arizona

MASTER BUILDER - SCENERY

Mid-Continent Region

Tom Persoon, Coralville, Iowa

North Central Region

Gregory Rich, New Baltimore, Michigan

Pacific Northwest Region

Doug Burton, Camrose, Alberta, Canada
Andy Doll, Meridian, Idaho

Sunshine Region

John Giammasi, Beverly Hills, Florida

MASTER BUILDER – PROTOTYPE MODELS

Pacific Northwest Region

Bob Parrish, MMR, Boise, Idaho

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – CIVIL

Pacific Northwest Region

Charlie Hutto, Albany, Oregon

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER –

ELECTRICAL

Pacific Northwest Region

Andy Doll, Meridian, Idaho
Charlies Hutto, Albany, Oregon

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Pacific Northwest Region

Jim Little, Coldstream, British Columbia, Canada

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

Mid-Central Region

Judy Zimmerman, Dayton, Ohio

Midwest Region

Michael Shockley, Peoria, Illinois

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

Mid-Central Region

Bruce Bowie, Huron, Ohio
George Pandelios, Cranberry Twp., Pennsylvania

Mid-Eastern Region

Neal Anderson, Statesville, North Carolina

North Central Region

Gregory Rich, New Baltimore, Michigan

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

MMR #611 Jim Little

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. If you prefer to write, contact Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.

MMRs: Master Model Railroader shirts and extra patches are available by contacting HQ in Soddy Daily, TN.

Notice of 2019 Elections- By-Petition Process

By John Stevens, NMRA Secretary

The following NMRA Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2019:

**Western District Director;
Atlantic District Director; and
At-Large Worldwide Director**

The current At-Large Worldwide Director is term limited and therefore is ineligible to be a candidate for this election. Both the current Atlantic District Director and the Western District Director are eligible to be candidates for this election.

Please check Article III, paragraph 12, of the NMRA Executive Handbook, EHB, located at <http://www.nmra.org> for the extent of the districts affected. Qualifications for candidates are listed in the EHB. Candidate Statements are limited to 400 words.

Although regular nominations for these positions closed May 15, candidates may wish to run for these positions By Petition. Requirements for submitting By Petition are contained in the EHB. All submissions By Petition shall be received by the Secretary NMRA at secy@nmra.org no later than October 15, 2018.



Don Weix photo

JAMES LITTLE EARNS MMR 611

I can't really remember when it all began. My mom used to say I was dropped off in a mail sack from an RPO car. A Marx 027 Warbonnet Santa Fe train set is my first memory of a model train given to me. My dad tried to increase its pulling power by adding some melted lead into the roof. It ended up destroying the paint job in the process! A few years later, I received a Lionel NYC steam engine that didn't require any "modifications" because it ran fairly well.

Growing up in the Junction area of Toronto may have added to my interest in railways. Our house was positioned just under the crossbar of a letter "A" formed by local railway lines — half a block up from one railway line, and three blocks away from the other lines on each side.

Not getting the bi-monthly NMRA eBULLETIN?

The new **NMRA eBulletin** comes out every other month near the 1st of the month. Either your SPAM filter is blocking it, or you need to update your email address with us. Have HQ update your email address at <http://www.nmra.org/customer-service-request>

Additionally, the entrance to Canadian Pacific's main Toronto freight yard was only a 10-minute bicycle ride away; I was really meant to be involved in some capacity with trains!

By the time I was 10 or 12 and delivering newspapers, I had switched to HO scale and started with a Kurtz Kraft PS-1 boxcar kit and a length of brass flex track, both of which cost 99 cents apiece. My first HO engine was an Athearn belt-drive Hustler. At age 13, I

joined the NMRA because I wanted one of their silver 25th Anniversary boxcars put out by MDC/Roundhouse — I still have it, and I've been a member of the NMRA ever since!

During my 20s and 30s, my activity waned as I completed an engineering degree in university and was then pursuing my career in aviation, which, at times, necessitated working in remote areas of northern Canada. It wasn't until the early 1990s that I was able to seriously get back into the hobby and earn my first AP certificate for author in 1994.

In the early 1990s, the late Stafford Swain (MMR #98) encouraged me to further pursue my interest and knowledge of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In the late 1990s, I was part of the revival team to get the Canadian Pacific Special Interest Group (CPSIG, now renamed as CPHA — CP Historical Association) back on its feet. This was also a result of Stafford inviting fans of the Canadian Pacific to a joint CN/CP convention. During this time, I also earned my Official and Volunteer Certificates as a member of the Niagara Frontier Region. My first Merit Awards were also earned for Locomotives and Rolling Stock. Around this time, I realized the Achievement Program is in place to raise one's knowledge and skill levels within the hobby. Thus, I began to view the Achievement Program really as a "Personal Improvement Program" — a viewpoint I hold to this day.

In the following millennium years, work, conflicting schedules, an upgrade course, and family life caused my AP progress to slow, although I did assist with the NMRA National Convention in 2003. Following retirement and a cross-country move in 2007, I finally got back to work building a layout and some models, which I had been planning for some time. This re-focused effort led me to my Motive Power and Cars AP Certificates. The end goal of MMR was now in sight with five certificates, so I decided to concentrate on some layout scenery and structures. This work allowed me to add three more AP certificates to my AP collection (Structures, Scenery, and Prototype Scenery). This left only one group to obtain a certificate in (Engineering and Operation).

With ongoing operations at the local club and at an individual's layout, the Chief Dispatcher's Certificate was within reach. Work at the local club's layout was also putting the Electrical Certificate within reach. However, the Dispatcher's Certificate narrowly won out, gaining me the MMR designation. After I reflect on the skills I've learned throughout this journey, I'll probably go for the remaining two certificates yet to get all 11!

This spring at a Divisional meet, I was also very surprised to find out I was awarded the Jack Work Memorial Trophy (Jack Work was a modeler and author who wrote some highly regarded magazine articles back in the late 1950s to 1960). The award is given to members of the Division who meet certain criteria such as imagination, creativity, artistry, innovation, and forward thinking. In the award's 20 years of existence, it has only been awarded 10 times.

**Certificates Earned
James Little, MMR #611**

- Master Builder—Motive Power**
- Master Builder—Cars**
- Master Builder—Structures**
- Master Builder—Scenery**
- Master Builder—Prototype Models**
- Chief Dispatcher**
- Association Official**
- Association Volunteer**
- Model Railroad Author**



David Truesdale photo

JACK D. MONETTE EARNS MMR 613

My love for trains dates back to about 1944 when, as a second grader, I spent a couple of years with my grandparents in Albright, West Virginia. Our house was located just a few yards from the Baltimore & Ohio branch line that ran from the M&K junction to Morgantown, West Virginia. There was a siding in front of our house where train crews parked empty coal cars. Whenever the crews switched out these cars, I stood outside watching with rapt attention. One day, the engineer invited me to take a cab ride, but I was too bashful to accept. This was wartime, and even though this was only a branch line, I remember trains loaded with tanks, guns, and other military equipment.

After the war, my folks lived in Fairmont, West Virginia, and my stepfather worked for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. At that time, Fairmont had a large marshaling yard where coal loads from the numerous mines were sorted and sent on their way to various destinations. During my high school years, my best friend Ed and I had the run of the roundhouse at Fairmont. Ed's dad was the chief boilermaker at the shop, and we would go anywhere we wanted. One of the favorite activities was to ride the locomotives, both steam and diesel, when the hostlers moved them around the shop. We even got to ride the mighty EM1: B&O's largest steam locomotive.

I count 1953 as the year I really got serious about model railroading. Ed and I had a large Lionel layout complete with a curved, scratchbuilt wooden trestle in his

basement. I also worked at the local hobby shop repairing Lionel, American Flyer, and Marx trains.

After graduating from high school, I moved out on my own and relocated to Ohio and got into HO. I even tried to scratchbuild a railroad crane but didn't get very far; I still had that project until a few years ago.

College interrupted my budding modeling attempts, and nothing much was accomplished until the early 1970s when I built a small layout and once again attempted to build (kitbash?). It was a locomotive this time, an EMD RS-1325. That project finally was completed about 2016 and earned a Merit Award.

Starting on the path to becoming a Master Model Railroader was almost accidental. I had won two Achievement awards along with the Golden Spike award in 2006 and one Achievement award in 2008, and then I just quit. I wasn't discouraged. I was

doing a lot of kitbashing and super-detailing, but when I looked at the requirements for Master Builder Cars and Motive Power, I thought, "I could never do that."

The event that finally pushed me over the brink was our A.P. Chairman, Dave Chance, who wanted to use some of my work to teach a class about judging. Dave told me that if any of my models got enough points, I could get a Merit Award. I submitted several, including one locomotive, and received Merit Awards on most of them, including the locomotive. That lit my fuse, and now I can't stop. My favorite is scratchbuilding cars; I usually have at least two in the works.

Achieving MMR has been a real challenge, and as we all are told, one of the many advantages is that it helps the modeler improve skills. This is certainly true for me. The most exciting aspect for me is that it has opened avenues of service to other model railroaders. Our Division, Carolina Southern Division 12, conducts a Railroad Model University each year, and I have been privileged to teach a scratchbuilding cars class for the past two years. This past year, I taught a class on open car loads. In the coming years, I hope to expand on the opportunities given me to help others along the path to achieving Master Model Railroader.

Certificates Earned Jack D. Monette, MMR #613

Master Builder—Scenery
Master Builder—Cars
Master Builder—Motive Power
Association Volunteer
Chief Dispatcher
Model Railroad Engineer—Civil
Model Railroad Engineer—
Electrical

We need your help.

We'd love you to send us a head/shoulders photo with two sentences about **why you are a model railroader and **what compels you to do this**. We want to show that model railroaders come from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds, so please also provide a description of your current or past modeling work. Please email to president@nmra.org**

ALSO we are in need of pre-war Varney kits, locos, and rolling stock, as well as vintage kits from the 1950s and 1960s. If you have any to donate, please contact Bob Brown at gazette@att.net

**GALLERY EXHIBIT
CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM**

