

# NMRA BULLETIN

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## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2017

GOLDEN SPIKE

#### Mid-Central Region

Roger Clapham, Lexington, Kentucky

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Douglas Barry, Glen Allen, Virginia

George Gaige, Palmyra, Virginia

Joe Parisi, Middleton, Delaware

Joe Walters, Bear, Delaware

#### North Central Region

Marv Linke, Shelby, Michigan

#### Rocky Mountain Region

Karin Gerald, West Jordan, Utah

Gary Petersen, Salt Lake City, Utah

### MASTER BUILDER - MOTIVE POWER

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

### MASTER BUILDER - CARS

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Jerry Lauschle, State College, Pennsylvania

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

Dale Kreutzer, Port Orchard, Washington

David Yadock, Renton, Washington

### MASTER BUILDER – STRUCTURES

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Jerry Lauschle, State College, Pennsylvania

#### Northeastern Region

Chuck Diljak, Wayne, New Jersey

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

Dale Kreutzer, Port Orchard, Washington

### MASTER BUILDER – SCENERY

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Jerry Lauschle, State College, Pennsylvania

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

#### Southeastern Region

David Rever, Marietta, Georgia

### MASTER BUILDER – PROTOTYPE MODELS

#### Lone Star Region

Pete Leach, Tomball, Texas

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – CIVIL

#### Rocky Mountain Region

Rick Luther, Magna, Utah

#### Thousand Lakes Region

Mike Engler, Lakeville, Minnesota

### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – ELECTRICAL

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Jerry Lauschle, State College, Pennsylvania

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

William Fassett, Spokane, Washington

#### Rocky Mountain Region

Rick Luther, Magna, Utah

### CHIEF DISPATCHER

#### Pacific Coast Region

Earl Girbovan, Los Altos, California

#### Rocky Mountain Region

William Botkin, Centennial, Colorado

### ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

#### Mid-Central Region

Bob Shreve, Mason, Ohio

### ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

#### Mid-Central Region

Bill Robbins, Lexington, Kentucky

Barbara Soward, Louisville, Kentucky

Cecil Stewart, Bardstown, Kentucky

Stew Winstandley, Nicholasville, Kentucky

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

Mark Dance, Vancouver, British Columbia

Michael Donnelly, Renton, Washington

### MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

#### Mid-Central Region

Chris Broughton, Louisville, Kentucky

#### Pacific Northwest Region

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington

Rene Gourley, North Vancouver, British Columbia

### MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

William Busacca, Shelton, Washington, MMR 587

Dale Kreutzer, Port Orchard, Washington, MMR 588

Mike Engler, Lakeville, Minnesota MMR 589

David Yadock, Renton, Washington, MMR 590

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

MARCH 2017

GOLDEN SPIKE

#### Mid-Central Region

Stan White, Louisville, Kentucky

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Joseph Gibson, Wake Forest, North Carolina

#### Northeastern Region

Kai Ebinger, Newton, New Jersey

#### Niagara Frontier Region

Roger Hauka, Barrie, Ontario

#### Pacific Coast Region

George Downs, San Lorenzo, California

#### Pacific Southwest Region

John Taranto, Las Vegas, Nevada

#### Southeastern Region

Keith Elrod, Philadelphia, Tennessee

### MASTER BUILDER - CARS

#### Lone Star Region

Pete Leach, Tomball, Texas

### MASTER BUILDER – SCENERY

#### Mid-Central Region

John Retterer, Prospect, Ohio

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Don Borden, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Nick Brownsberger, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

### MASTER BUILDER – PROTOTYPE MODELS

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Nick Brownsberger, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER – CIVIL European Region

Mike Holly, Hunstetter, Germany

**MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER –  
ELECTRICAL**

**Mid-Eastern Region**

Brian Kampschroer, Dillsburg, Pennsylvania

**CHIEF DISPATCHER**

**Northeastern Region**

James van Bokkelen, Amesbury, Massachusetts

**Pacific Northwest Region**

Mark Johnson, Edmonton, Alberta

**Pacific Southwest Region**

Harold Helland, Rancho Mission Viejo, California

**ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL**

**Pacific Northwest Region**

Russ Segner, Newcastle, Washington

**ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER**

**Mid-Eastern Region**

Gerald Fitzgerald, Charlottesville, Virginia

**North Central Region**

E. Phillip Doolittle, Rochester Hills, Michigan

**Northeastern Region**

David Insley, Townsend, Massachusetts

**Southeastern Region**

Michael Cummings, Alpharetta, Georgia

**MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR**

**Mid-Eastern Region**

Dale Ridgeway, Bishopville, Maryland

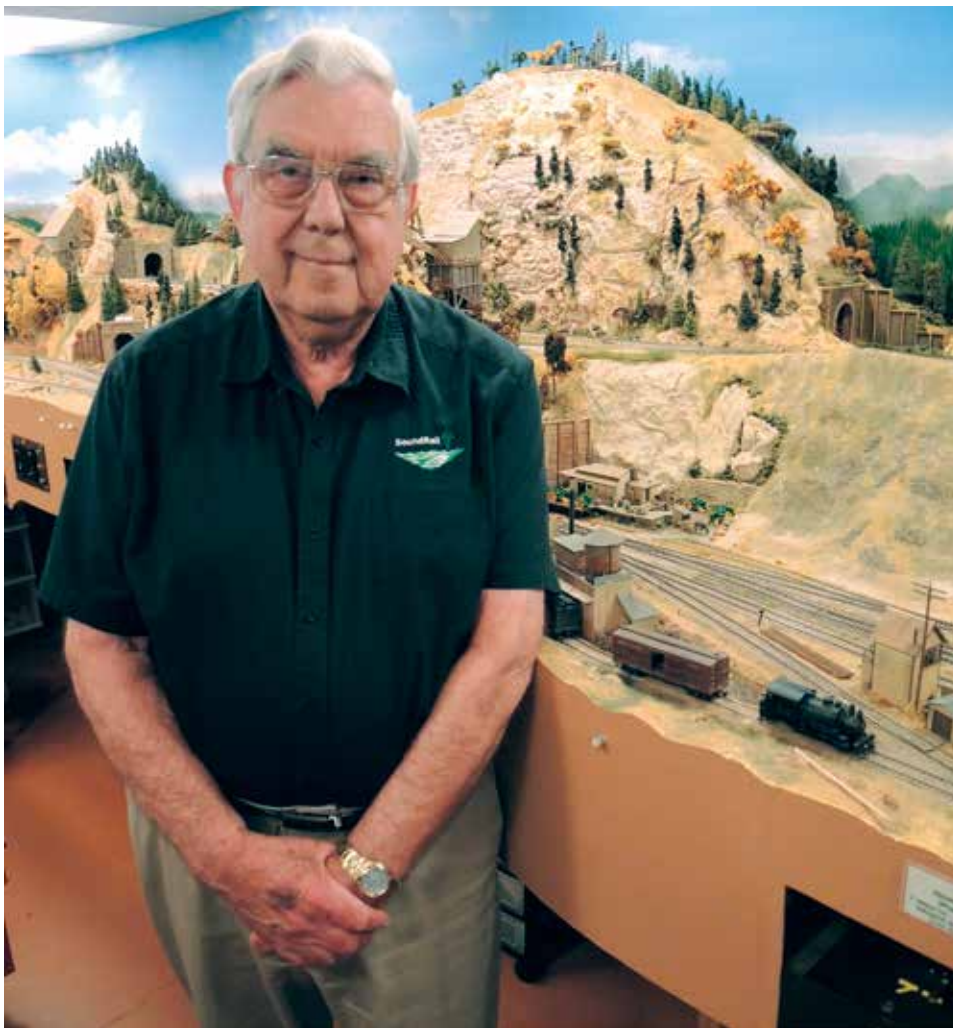
**Midwest Region**

Larry Tschopp, Tolono, Illinois

**AP QUESTIONS:** If you have questions about the AP 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.

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



**JACK TINGSTAD EARNS MMR #591**

**M**y enthusiasm for model railroading had a little different beginning than most. Oh, I did get the Lionel train set under the Christmas tree; however, that was during a period when money was really tight in our family, and there was never any extra for trains. The simple oval with trains running around and around didn't do much for me. During my early high school years, a neighbor, who was into ship modeling (as was I), invited me over. He also had a small table top layout that caught my attention. Later in high school, I was with a group of guys, one of whom had a father who owned a hobby shop. This hobby shop had a huge layout housed in a Quonset hut behind the store. I think that's what piqued my interest in trains and away from ship models.

As young marrieds, our first apartment had a 4x8 layout. Looking back, it would have been better if I had just stuck to building structures for a future layout when we

would have space. My poor wife was black and blue from bumping into the edges as she tried to move around this oversized, out-of-place, piece of "furniture." This first layout didn't get very far. It was moved to storage and then to our first and second homes, each of which had a basement.

Then followed college and a career in public education. During those work years, I built a modest layout in our present home on Whidbey Island in Coupeville, Washington. Again, money was tight, so it was brass track with fiber ties, 18-inch radius, No. 4 turnouts, steep grades, and the ever-problematic turnout under the mountain. I used sand and dyed sawdust and plant fibers for scenery — a learning experience to say the least. I did scratchbuild a few cars and a couple of structures during this period.

After retirement in 1995, I became fired up once again. It was about this time



that I joined the NMRA and attended my first National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. As enthusiasm grew, I was able to gain a 12x21 foot space in the basement by moving a freezer, workbench, and storage shelves. I put in suspended ceiling (a must), painted the cement floor, and installed the masonite backdrop material. The layout progressed quickly since now I had all the time (and money) needed. Using a modified John Armstrong track plan, I created a layout designed for operation.

One of my “givens” was to have a walk-in design to provide easy access for visitors during open houses for the local community. I have gained quite a reputation as “the train guy” in our small island town, and many people have called me for advice regarding estates and other model train issues.

I knew I wanted a layout with knee-to-ceiling scenery, so double decking was out. The design did afford two levels on one side of the room, but still not truly “decks,” and Mount Massive in the opposite corner over the two-turn helix. Initially, I installed a DC control system with rotary toggles and switches for four reversing loops. After a couple of op sessions, the other operators were instrumental in encouraging and helping me change over to DCC.

For the past ten years, we have had op sessions about once a month. The initial track plan, with a staging yard extension into the crew lounge, and the DCC controls have made for many fun sessions. Several crew members continue to come from “off-island.” I guess they are pretty satisfied with the whole scheme of things.

During all this time, I had no interest in the Achievement Program. I really didn't know much about how it worked other than there was something called “Master Model Railroader” available through the NMRA if you were a really terrific modeler. In 2010, our PNR AP Chair, Jack Hamilton, visited the layout. He and Di Voss looked over my work and saw that I qualified for three AP certificates: Electrical, Scenery, and Structures. Jack had been after me to get started in the AP for some time, and that was the beginning of a — rather reluctant at first — journey to an MMR designation.

While visiting dozens of layouts across the country, I amassed enough hours to qualify for the Chief Dispatcher Certificate (the only one of the certificates in which there was a need for considerable paperwork), and my open house activities gained the one for Volunteer. The PNR AP Chair kept encouraging me, and I worked on completing the Cars requirements. The last of the seven was Civil. Most of those requirements were complete on my layout years ago; however, I needed to do some scratchbuilding of track, so I borrowed

some Fast Tracks fixtures from a fellow modeler and scratchbuilt a turnout, a crossover, and a gauntlet track segment, even though they were not in my scale or on my layout.

All in all, it has been a satisfying experience even though I was initially reluctant to get serious about the program. I found out that by just doing what you do best in the hobby, there is a program whereby you can be recognized for your efforts. If your Region has an AP Chair as helpful as Jack Hamilton, you too can complete the seven Certificates needed to earn your MMR designation. It only took me seven years of encouragement and focused modeling.

**Certificates Earned:  
Jack Tingstad, MMR #591**

**Master Builder-Scenery  
Master Builder-Cars  
Model Railroad Engineer-Civil  
Model Railroad Engineer-  
Electrical  
Chief Dispatcher  
Association Volunteer  
Master Builder Structures**

## THE NEW NMRA MODEL RAILROAD DIRECTORY

IS NOW **ONLINE** and

**READY TO USE!**

Now whether you're at home or traveling, you can contact other NMRA members for a layout tour, to talk trains, or even to join in an op session! There are maps, descriptions, photos, videos, and more. And it's only available to NMRA members.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org), click on “Member Home,” then “Directory” to see layouts in your area or to list your own layout (as long as it's an operating home or garden railroad). Join in the fun!



**We make it more fun!**