NMRA BULLETIN

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Have you changed your address or other membership information? **Notify Headquarters**

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2019 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations: 2019—Salt Lake City, UT • July 7 –13, 2019 • http://www.nmra2019slc.org
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org
• 2020—St. Louis, MO • 2021—Santa Clara, CA • 2022—Birmingham, England

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT DECEMBER 2018 GOLDEN SPIKE

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North Central Region

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Northeastern Region

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Mid-Continent Region

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Mid-Eastern Region

Charles Rausch, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Pacific Southwest Region

John Lovely, Flagstaff, Arizona

MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES

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Pacific Southwest Region

Dennis Ivison, Garden Grove, California

Model Railroad Engineer - Civil

Northeastern Region

John McHugh, Plaistow, New Hampshire

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James Marquardt, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

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MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

Mid-Continent Region

David Lowell, Crestwood, Missouri

Pacific Southwest Region

John Lovely, Flagstaff, Arizona

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

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

Did you know

NMRA Member Forums Are Now Open.

The new NMRA Member Forums are open for your use. Members are already posting modeling information, questions, and items of general interest. The Forums are normally accessed from the Member Home page (big blue block on the right side of the screen) or directly at http://www.nmra.org/forum - try them out today!.



You can connect with worldwide members - FROM HOME.

The NMRA TURNTABLE makes the internet a little

smaller.

If you're spending hours doing internet video searches, you're wasting valuable modeling time! The NMRA Turntable brings the best of the best model railroading videos to your emailbox every month. It's one more benefit of NMRA membership!

If you're not receiving it, contact NMRA HQ and make sure they have your current email address!



March 2019 53



ROBERT BARNETT EARNS MMR[©] #605

ike most model railroaders of my generation, I started with tinplate trains. My older brother had a Marx O-27 Tinplate train set that ran on 3-rail, similar to Lionel. I had an almost matching Marx wind-up train set. We both moved up to new American Flyer train sets for Christmas of 1958. For several years, we built and rebuilt S-scale American Flyer layouts. But the HO layouts I saw in the magazine publications looked so much more realistic than Marx, Lionel, or American Flyer. I became determined to switch to the smaller, more detailed scale. Finally, for Christmas 1963, I received my first HO train set, a Marx batterypowered set consisting of a steam engine and tender, a gondola, and one caboose. The engine and caboose were lettered New York Central in keeping with most of the equipment made by Louis Marx. The NYC caboose, repainted and detailed, lives to this day on my River City Union Terminal as a transfer caboose, while the gondola is detailed and repainted as a T&P sand gondola.

Over the next seven years, I built several small layouts as I added engines, freight cars, and passenger cars to the roster and buildings and scenery to the layouts. When I started college, the trains went into storage until 1977 when we moved to Houston, Texas. Having grown up in a small town in East Texas with no hobby shop or known area modelers, I was ecstatic to be in a city that had several fine hobby shops and several local clubs, one of which sponsored an annual Jamboree (a train show) and annual November layout tours.

While I was visiting G&G Model Shop, Ben Pearlman,

then president of the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club (and later the Lone Star Region), invited me to a club meeting. After a second invitation a month later, I took him up on it, and my hobby was forever changed.

The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club is an all-NMRA Club, so membership included joining the NMRA and Lone Star Region. And this opened doors to new acquaintances and experiences. Attending LSR Conventions in other cities provided the opportunity to visit a wide variety of railroads in San Antonio, Fort Worth, and Dallas, and other cities. By volunteering to assemble the layout tours for several years in the 1980s, I became acquainted with the Houston-area layout owners. I also assembled the layout tours for the 1989 Astro Rail NMRA Convention held in Houston.

But the best was yet to come: operations. In 1984, I was invited to operate on Gil Freitag's Stony Creek & Western. Not being an experienced operator, I accepted but was very nervous. The session went fine, although I did wind up taking a way freight turn all the way to the other end of the railroad by not reading my paperwork

carefully. I soon began receiving invites to operate on other area operations-based railroads. I operated on each railroad every chance I got. I was fortunate to have become a regular at Gil's Stony Creek & Western and on the extra board for Larry Redmond's Parallax and Mike Spoor's Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.

My journey to becoming an MMR[©] was a long one. I received my first Certificate in 1991 for Association Volunteer. It just came in the mail. Convention Chairs Larry Redmond and Ben Pearlman or possibly outside activities chair Bob Dannenbrink must have completed the paperwork and sent it in. The remaining Certificates were completed between 2013 to 2017. (There were hundreds of Little League Baseball and soccer games in between Nos. 1 and 2.) I am proudest of the Model Railroad Dispatcher Certificate since it documents the hundreds of hours I have spent on friends' HO- and 1½"-inch-scale railroads operating and dispatching.

Over the years, I was elected president of the San Jacinto Club seven times spaced over four decades, serve three years as president of Houston Area Live Steamers, and four years as Operations Vice President, and served seven years as Vice President of the Lone Star Region. I have also been active in the Missouri Pacific and Katy Railroad Historical Societies. The friendships and camaraderie are truly the highlights of the hobby, and the technical knowledge gained is invaluable. I can learn more from a few well-placed questions at a historical society meet than I can get from months of research.

I am forever grateful for the opportunities afforded to me by the LSR, NMRA, San Jac Club, and I am indebted to Ben for extending that small invitation almost 40 years ago.

Certificates Earned
Robert Barnett

Association Volunteer
Chief Dispatcher
Association Official
Master Builder Structures
Master Builder Scenery

Model Railroad Engineer-Civil
Master Builder – Cars

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