

NMRA BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM MANAGERS

Chief Administrative Officer —
Jenny Hendricks
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
O: (423) 892-2846 Fax: (423) 899-4869
e-mail: hq@nmra.org

Library -
423-892-2846 or nmraops@nmra.org

Education Department Manager —
Michael Hohn, MMR®
Morgantown, WV 26501-4535
(304) 296-6303
e-mail: educate@nmra.org

Howell Day Museum Committee Chair —
John Stevens
Tyrone, GA 30290
H: (770) 632-0753
e-mail: museum@nmra.org

Information Technology Department
Manager —
Gert "Speed" Muller
Murphy, TX 75094-3524
(469) 345-0022
e-mail: itmanager@nmra.org

Development & Fund Raising Department
Manager — Alan Anderson
West Jordan, UT 84088 H: (801) 613-0801
e-mail: fund@nmra.org

Marketing Consultant
Christina Ganzer Zambri
Somerset, NJ 08873 C: (732) 609-5221
e-mail: marketing@nmra.org

Meetings & Trade Show Department
Manager — Ed Slintak
Redwood City, CA 94062
(650) 333-0848
e-mail: conv@nmra.org

Publications Department Manager —
Riley Triggs
Austin, TX 78704 H: (512) 636-3521
e-mail: pubs@nmra.org

Standards & Conformance Department
Manager — Andy Zimmerman
Tallahassee, FL 32309
C: 850-524-4399
e-mail: tech-chair@nmra.org

Region Secretaries: send all
changes in Region officer infor-
mation to the NMRA Secretary:
secy@nmra.org

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

Notify NMRA Headquarters

**e-mail: hq@nmra.org
Phone: 423-892-2846 (8am-4pm ET)
Mail: P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328**

REGION PRESIDENTS

Australasian Region—Duncan Cabassi
Sinnamon Park, QLD, Australia
M: +61 0424 844 807
e-mail president@nmra.org.au

British Region—Jonathan Small, MMR®
Millfield, Vyner Road North, Bidston Hill
Prenton, Merseyside, CH43 7PZ
United Kingdom +44 7976 636592
e-mail: brprez@nmra.org

Lone Star Region—Donna Orr
2625 Rolling Meadows Dr.
Rockwall, TX 75087
e-mail: lsrprez@nmra.org
H: (972) 342-8598

Mid-Central Region—David Neff
5479 Chestnut Hill Dr.
Willoughby, OH 44094
H: (440) 269-1229 e-mail: mcrprez@nmra.org

Mid-Continent Region — Brad Slone MMR®
PO Box 313
Dixon, MO 65459.
H: (573) 308 7144
e-mail: mcorprez@nmra.org

Mid-Eastern Region—Scott Unger
115 S 22nd Street
Allentown, PA 18104-6400
C: (610) 462-0756
e-mail: merprez@nmra.org

Midwest Region—Bob McGeever
309 W Randolph St.
Stoughton, WI 53589
H: (608) 873-4529 e-mail: mwrprez@nmra.org

Niagara Frontier Region—Gerald Arends
165 Eighth Ave
Kitchener, ON, N2C1S5, Canada
(226) 476-1801 e-mail: nfrprez@nmra.org

North Central Region—Richard (Rich)
Mahaney; 316 Arnstrom Drive
PO Box 265, Gobles, MI 49055
H: (269) 214-4221 e-mail: ncrprez@nmra.org

Northeastern Region—Ed O'Rourke, MMR®
5193 Pointe East Drive
Jamesville, NY 13078
H: (315) 247-0494 e-mail: nerprez@nmra.org

Pacific Coast Region—Frank Markovich, MMR®
1904 Chula Vista Dr.
Belmont, CA 94002-3622
H: (408) 505-2727 e-mail: pcrprez@nmra.org

Pacific Northwest Region—Jeff Herrmann
PO Box 1012
Rathdrum, ID 83858
H: (714) 651-3903 e-mail: pnrprez@nmra.org

Pacific Southwest Region—Pat Raymer
2655 El Caminito
La Crescenta, CA 91214
H: (818) 957-7351 e-mail: psrprez@nmra.org

Rocky Mountain Region—Lowell Didas
4894 S. Forest Circle
Taylorsville, UT 84129
(801) 759-7829. e-mail: rnrprez@nmra.org

Southeastern Region—Roy Masterson
3502 Glendon Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37411-4114
H: (423) 227-0334 e-mail: serprez@nmra.org

Sunshine Region—Andy Zimmerman
Tallahassee, FL 32309
C: 850-524-4399
e-mail: ssrprez@nmra.org

Thousand Lakes Region— Art Suel
14500 Alabama Ave
Savage, MN 55378
e-mail: tlrprez@nmra.org

NMRA Canada President—Ed Molenkamp
Edmonton Alberta T5M 2M9
e-mail: presca@nmra.org

2024 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:
Long Beach, California August 4 - 11, 2024 (<https://surfliner2024.org/>)
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
423-892-2846 • ntsreg@nmra.org
• 2025 Novi, Michigan

rev 3/8/2024

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT FEBRUARY 2024 GOLDEN SPIKE

Australasia Region

Graham Hodges, Earlville, Queensland
Australia
Steve Weedon, Mt. Barker, South Australia,
Australia

Mid-Eastern Region

Dave Chance, Kannapolis, North Carolina

Pacific Northwest Region

Chris Carson, Vancouver, Washington
Larry Dickinson, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan,
Canada
Ronald Hillis, Ferintosh, Alberta, Canada
Russell Kerr, Milton, Washington
Charles Lee, Puyallup, Washington
Brian Randall, Prince Albert, Sas, Canada

Rocky Mountain Region

Sean Jackson, Bayfield, Colorado
Doug Jolley, Riverton, Utah
Jim Hoeppner, Salt Lake City, Utah

MASTER BUILDER - CARS

Mid-West Region

Thomas Cain, Indianapolis, Indiana

Pacific Northwest Region

Robert Deem, Spokane, Washington
Dennis Dreher, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Daniel Figy, Spokane, Washington
Jeffrie Herrmann, Rathdrum, Idaho

Pacific Southwest Region

Steven Bradley, Oceanside, California
James Spice, Mesa, Arizona

MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES

Australasia Region

Marcel Van Eck, Littlehampton, South
Australia, Australia

Mid-Continent Region

David Lowell, Crestwood, Missouri

Mid-Eastern Region

Glenn Lapkin, Manakin Sabot, Virginia

Pacific Northwest Region

Lee Chessman, Spokane, Washington
William Fassett, Spokane, Washington
John Langlot, Spokane, Washington

Pacific Southwest Region

James Spice, Mesa, Arizona

MASTER BUILDER - SCENERY

British Region

Benoit Evellin, Dol-de-Bretagne, France

Niagara Frontier Region

Lloyd Henchey, St. Eugene, Ontario, Canada

Pacific Northwest Region

Lee Chessman, Spokane, Washington
Rick Clark, Mead, Washington
John Langlot, Spokane, Washington
John Pettigrew, Pasco, Washington

Pacific Southwest Region

James Spice, Mesa, Arizona

Thousand Lakes Region

Jason Boche, Rosemount, Minnesota

MASTER BUILDER - PROTOTYPE MODELS

British Region

Benoit Evellin, Dol-de-Bretagne, France

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - CIVIL

Australasia Region

Steve Weedon, Mt. Barker, SA, Australia

Pacific Northwest Region

Lee Chessman, Spokane, Washington
Russell Kerr, Milton, Virginia

Pacific Southwest Region

James Spice, Mesa, Arizona

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL

Australasia Region

Steve Weedon, Mt. Barker, SA, Australia

Mid-Central Region

Stan White, Louisville, Kentucky

Mid-Eastern Region

Michael Byle, Colonial Beach, Virginia

Pacific Northwest Region

Lee Chessman, Spokane, Washington
Russell Kerr, Milton, Washington
John Langlot, Spokane, Washington
John Pettigrew, Pasco, Washington
Bill Voogd, Spokane, Washington

Pacific Southwest Region

James Spice, Mesa, Arizona

Thousand Lakes Region

Jason Boche, Rosemount, Minnesota

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Mid-Eastern Region

Doug Algire, York, South Carolina

Pacific Northwest Region

J. Scott Sabo, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Pacific Southwest Region

Mona Raymer, LaCrescenta, California

ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

North Coast Region

Andrew Keeney, Dewitt, Michigan

Northeastern Region

Christopher Carfaro, Richmond, Vermont

Northeastern Region

Drew James, Clay, New York

ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

Mid-Central Region

Darcy Elliott, Louisville, Kentucky

Mid-Eastern Region

Roy Becker, Rock Hill, South Carolina

Mid-Eastern Region

Patrick Flash, Ellicott City, Maryland
David Thrans, Stanley, North Carolina

North Coast Region

Andrew Keeney, Dewitt, Michigan

Pacific Northwest Region

Rick Clark, Mead, Washington
Wyatt Green, Bremerton, Washington
George Hledik, Kennewick, Washington
John Langlot, Spokane, Washington
Michael Tietz, Spokane, Washington

MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

Niagara Frontier Region

Keith Stamper, Port Colborne, Ontario,
Canada

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER®

MMR® #753, Todd Summers, Marion,
Iowa
MMR® #754, Phillip Burnside, Avon,
Indiana
MMR® #755, Thomas Cain, Indianapolis,
Indiana
MMR® #756, William Fassett, Spokane,
Washington
MMR® #757, Daniel Figy, Spokane,
Washington
MMR® #758, Jeffrie Herrmann, Rathdrum,
Idaho
MMR® #759, James Spice, Mesa, Arizona

MMR EARNED

WILLIAM FASSETT

EARNS

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #756

When I was in the 3rd grade, my father edited the weekly newspaper in Sumner, Washington, and a feature of that small town was a Great Northern yard at its west end, about a block from our house. A “good kid” could be invited by the crew of the local steam switcher to ride on the locomotive in return for some minor chores around the yard. The first time the fireman stomped on the pedal to open the firebox and the roaring sound and heat spewed forth, I felt two emotions: (1) *Yikes!*, and (2) *Wow!* Around that same time, my father was charged with closing down my late grandfather’s fruit canning business, and I took a trip by myself from Tacoma’s Union Station to the Zilla, Washington, flag stop on the Northern Pacific to see my grandfather’s orchards before they sold. That trip created a life-long railfan.

My father died in 1956, and my mother moved with me and my siblings to our grandmother’s house in Tacoma’s north end. We had no money for model trains, but my next-door neighbor, Frankie, did. His American Flyer 4 x 8 basement layout was a constant source of enjoyment.

The 1980s, while teaching at the University of Washington, were my first opportunity to build my layout with my two young sons. Based on a magazine plan, it was a classic figure 8, with a mountain and tunnel at one end and built in N scale on a hollow-core bathroom door. The boys ultimately found other interests, and I sold the layout to a train store in Kirkland, Washington, around 1994, when my work took me to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, for five years.

I returned to Washington and the pharmacy faculty at Washington State University for 15 years. Upon approaching retirement, my wife, Sharon, wanted to know what I was going to do to keep me out of her hair, and I mentioned golf and model railroading. She said, “Okay,” but she wanted something larger than N scale.

Around 2011, I began reading up on the changes to the hobby since the 1980s and found the resources on the NMRA website very helpful. I joined the NMRA in 2014 when I wisely became a member



of a 100-percent NMRA club, the River City Modelers, in Spokane, Washington. I enjoyed participating in operation sessions and learned to perform the dispatcher role early on. Eventually, I received the Chief Dispatcher certificate. I also got engaged in adding quite a bit of lighting to structures on the River City Western pike and learned how the layout had been computerized — a great resource when I computerized my home layout.

I did several other smart things shortly after that. I attended the 2015 NMRA National Convention in Portland, Oregon, and the Pacific Northwest Region Conventions every year. At the Portland convention, I attended clinics on DCC, layout design, and related layout-building clinics. I ended up contracting with Byron Henderson, who was active with the Layout Design Special Interest Group (SIG), to help me design my track plan for the Bothell & Spokane Railroad, a 13 x 26 around-the-wall HO layout with a peninsula and three levels. I didn’t realize it then, but Byron guided me to include almost all the essential elements for my later AP Certificate as Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical in the design, which was my first AP award.

I became active in the 5th Division of the PNR, serving as Paymaster from 2015 to 2017 and then as Superintendent until 2021, which placed me on the PNR Board and extended my community of fellow model railroaders. I served on the 2017 PNR Convention committee and

participated in many open houses at River City Modelers co-sponsored by the 5th Division. I contributed to the *Switchlist*, our Region newsletter, and gave clinics at Region conventions and Division meets, primarily relating to model railroad technology, which is one of my favorite areas of the hobby. These activities led to receiving AP certificates for Association Volunteer, Association Official, and Model Railroad Author.

As Superintendent, I learned more about the Achievement Program and its value to NMRA members. In 2017, my division had only two Master Model Railroaders®, and I mistakenly believed we needed an MMR® to be the AP Chair. When they both hit their 80s and couldn’t continue, I saw no easy choice but to take over the job myself as I was ending my four-year term as Superintendent. Peter Armstrong, my successor, agreed to appoint me to the position. Later that year, the Pacific Northwest Region President, Jeff Herrmann, MMR®, asked me to take over the Region AP manager position when Jack Hamilton, MMR® (a.k.a. “The Tool Guy”) stepped down after 15 years of superior leadership of the Region’s program.

Since assuming that role, I’ve had the good fortune to see and evaluate dozens of layouts, modules, and models. In my opinion, the vast majority of the modelers demonstrated skills superior to mine, and I’ve learned a great deal from them. However, I also recognized that the

2024 NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

MIKE CUMMINGS, SECRETARY NMRA

Announcing the results of the 2024 NMRA elections. The following have won their elections for a three-year position starting at the summer Board of Directors meeting in Long Beach, California in August.

President Gordy Robinson

Vice President Rick Coble

At Large North American Director Chris Palermo

Eastern District Director John Doehring

Pacific District Director Brad Anderson

Thank you to all members who ran for office and took the time to vote either electronically or by written ballot. I encourage all members to consider serving in any capacity at the Division, Region, or National level.

Achievement Program will reward competent model makers, even though they may not become contest winners.

I encourage members to have their early models evaluated locally, at their layout, or at a Division event. This tends to provide more opportunities for feedback, and the AP is intended to provide an educational process. Only one of my models was evaluated at a convention — in the AP portion, not the contest. Most of my cars and structures were evaluated at between 90 and 100 points out of 125, which, to my reckoning as a retired professor, are B-minus or C-plus grades but satisfactory.

Perhaps like some, I have experienced disappointment from an evaluation of one of my models that I thought was considerably off the mark. To others with similar memories, I strongly urge them not to be discouraged. (See MMR® Warren Smith's biography in the March 2024 issue of the *NMRA MAGAZINE* to learn about his success despite a single poor experience.) To write off the Achievement Program based on the behavior of others is, as my stepdad used to say, to "cut off your nose to spite your face!" My advice: don't let other people determine how you feel about your modeling. If you have concerns about how you were treated, contact your Division AP manager or Region AP manager and get feedback from a second source.

I took advantage of the 2023 Modeling With The Masters® session at the PNR Convention in Tacoma to learn how to scratchbuild wood flatcars (thanks, Jack Hamilton, MMR®, and your

team!), and completed the requirements for Master Builder – Cars.

I finished my journey to MMR® with Master Builder – Structures. I relied heavily on the examples and advice from Bob Parrish, MMR®, to complete my final project in a manner and level of proficiency I could not have achieved in 2015.

I intend to emulate Bob and continue to work in other AP categories; whether I can complete all 11, as he has done, is an open question but a worthwhile goal. The first additional category will be scenery; because I haven't yet completed the scenery on the BSRR, I'll be one of the Master Model Railroaders® who will never receive a Golden Spike!

In closing, many individuals in the NMRA have been of great help to me, but I particularly want to thank my fellow River City Modelers for the opportunities and encouragement they have provided.

**Certificates Earned
William Fassett, MMR® #756**

**Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical
Association Volunteer
Chief Dispatcher
Association Official
Model Railroad Author
Master Builder – Cars
Master Builder - Structures**

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 mailbox 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!



DAN FIGY

EARNs

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #757

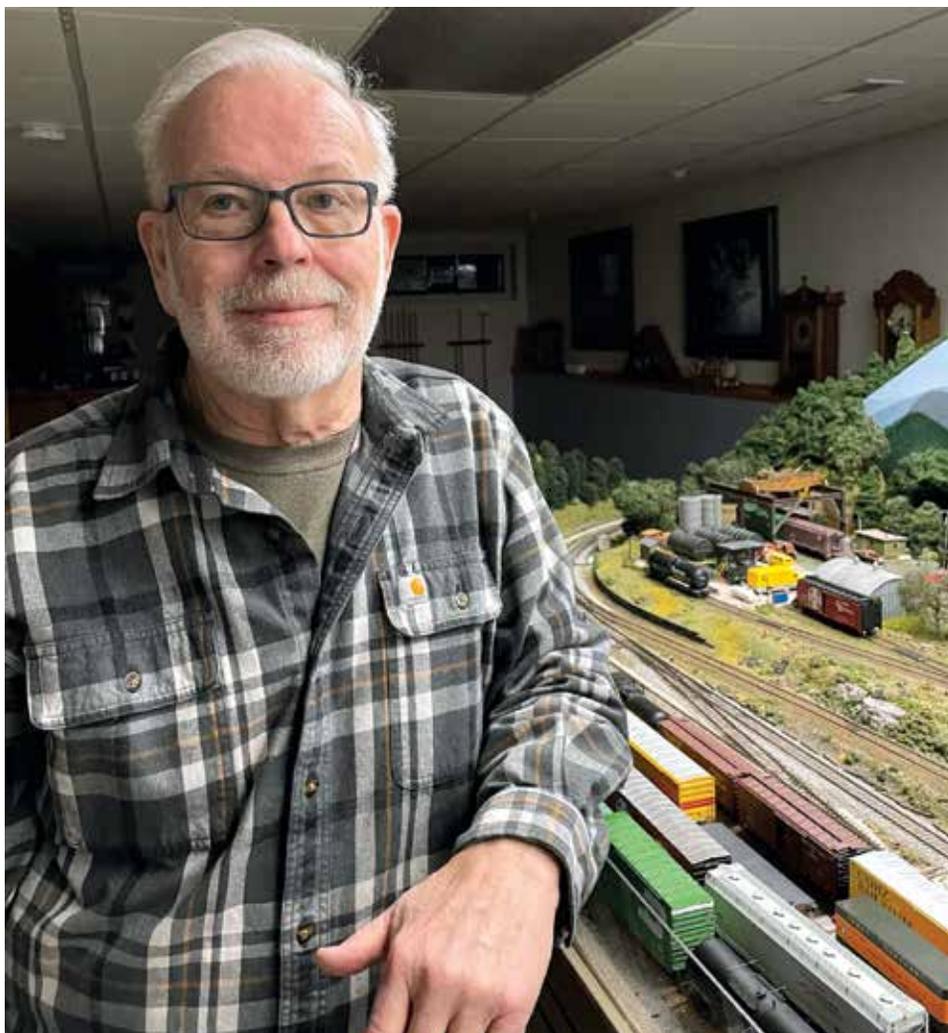
I retired in 2010 as a Database Administrator with Avista Corporation in Spokane, Washington. I spent most of my career in data management. My work took me to 24 states, London, England, and Santiago, Chile. Not yet having my fill of travel, my wife and I spent nine months in 2011 traveling in our motorhome throughout the USA.

Our trip included visits to many railroad museums, landmarks, and historical sites, as well as all 48 states and all but three national parks. We took rides on several steam trains, and among the best were the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, and, by far the most enjoyable, the Cass Scenic Railroad in West Virginia. We just happened to be there during the fantastic fall scenery! My wife and I called this a trip of a lifetime and ticked off quite a few bucket list items.

As with numerous modelers, I started with a Christmas present that piqued my interest in trains and thereby began my journey into the hobby of HO-scale model railroading. As happens with many or even most young railroad enthusiasts, my days as a model railroader were often interrupted by most pressing matters such as employment, marriage, and raising a family. I am certain that this is not an unfamiliar part of my story.

As retirement became a reality, I joined Spokane's River City Modelers Club. Meeting so many friends with shared interests "refired my boiler." I served as club Secretary until the club moved its layout to a new location. At that time, I took on the responsibility of Project Director. Over the next eight years I spent most of my time encouraging club members in their participation and activities. Unfortunately, I wasn't learning enough about modeling techniques. During these years the club developed the opportunity for switching on a large layout. I fell in love with the puzzle of switching! I took leave as the club's Project Director and began building my DCC HO switching layout.

In 2013, I began developing a design around two articles from *Model Railroader*



magazine: "Lots of Switching, Small Places" and "Switchback: Tight Spaces on the River Job." My final design became a challenging puzzle on how to move cars with shortages of track along with other freight cars in the way. The time and era are set in the fall of 2005 near the town of Leverett in the state of Washington, very near the Canadian border.

An important part of planning was determining the call letters, industry names, etc. Our three grandchildren, Trevor, Johnna, and Alyssa, are a large part of our lives, so we wanted to name the layout after them. I used the first letters of each and settled on JAT, which stands for Jacobs Thorne Short Line. Industries followed the same family naming, but I added a little whimsy. I think I spent just as much time on the naming process as on the track layout!

Construction began in January 2015 with five fellow modelers as the crew. When the pandemic arrived in 2020, our

construction slowed down, with only myself working in hopes of continuing progress toward my planned completion date. When the pandemic was winding down, the construction crew joined me again, working to achieve a then-delayed completion date.

Although the layout will never be completely done, I declared the project 99 percent complete in December 2021. This finished project allowed me to learn modeling design, construction, track-laying, electrical wiring, small building construction, lighting, and scenery. I am very proud of the layout, the way it runs and operates, and its appearance. I am very grateful for my fellow modelers and thankful for all their wisdom, support, and lots of laughter!

Having discovered the advantages of joint wisdom, we started a "round robin" of our group where we could go to each other's homes to help with their projects and layouts. In 2016, our

group also formed the Inland Northwest FreeMo group and has participated in many model railroad shows since then.

Initially, I realized that I was not yet an accomplished modeler, but with the five others, I learned what modeling is and how to get the most from the hobby. I would like to thank Alan Ashton, Jerry Barsness, Al Cunningham, Peter Heppler, and Mike Tietz for their companionship and support. Truly sorry to say Al Cunningham passed before the layout was complete. Also, in my list of thanks, I want to thank Bill Fassett for his constant “butt-kicking” to keep me on task to achieve the MMR®. My first certificate

was in 2018, and the most difficult for me was Cars, which I earned in 2024.

I now spend my time weathering cars, working on paint designs for the engines and caboose, general maintenance, and, of course, running trains using JMRI software. I also hold operations sessions with my fellow modelers and host visits from anyone interested in looking at the layout or even running some switching operations.

My true regret is that during my younger years, I could not pass along my obsession with trains to the next generation. This is a wonderful hobby to have in retirement, keeping your mind and hands

busy and allowing your life partner some quiet time. Thanks, Peggy!

Come for a visit and ride the JAT!

Certificates Earned Dan Figy, MMR® #757

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

MMR EARNED

JEFF HERRMANN

EARNs

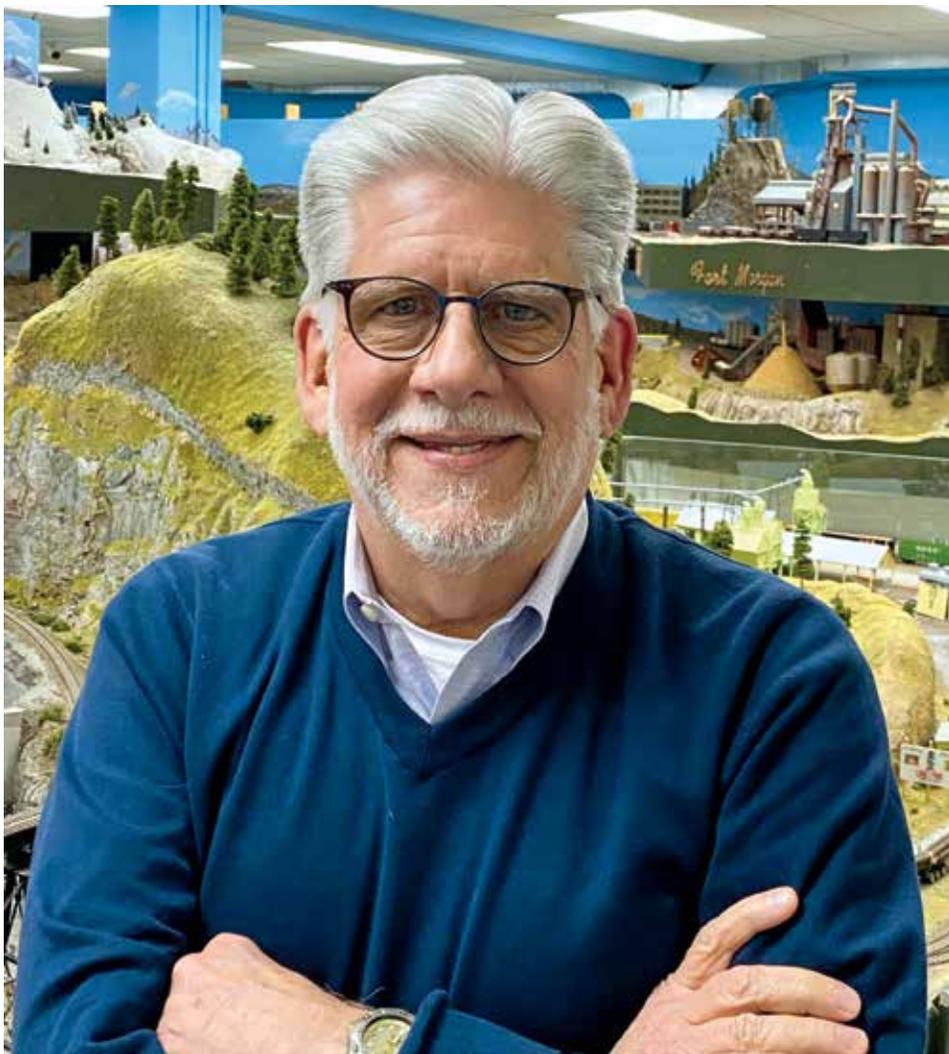
MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #758

Like most modelers of my generation, I became interested in model railroading early. One year, for Christmas in the early 1960s, I received an HO-scale Fleischmann train set (my grandparents were German immigrants). I remember it well: a Pennsylvania 0-6-0 switch engine with four boxcars and a caboose...I still have the locomotive on display in my current train room!

I also, like many of my generation, had a hiatus from the hobby during college, my early career, and with a young starting family. Then, in my late twenties, my wife Gail encouraged me to find a hobby that would bring me some relaxation and stress relief. Model railroading was an easy choice; I loved trains and had always been fascinated by diorama building. Though now retired, I spent over 40 years as a professional leader in the Boy Scouts of America organization. We relocated a lot during that time, to both coasts and a few places in between.

Consequently, I am now working on my fifth home layout — the one I intend to finish someday! Retiring to North Idaho allowed us to build a home with a basement dedicated solely to a layout! I model in HO and HOn3 and have a growing interest in On30, particularly narrow gauge.

Although I had been mostly a “lone wolf” modeler, I was first introduced to the NMRA in the 1990s by Bill Ryker, a friend in Little Rock, Arkansas. He



encouraged me to attend the NMRA National Convention in St. Louis with him in 2001. The die was cast. Since then, I haven't been able to get enough of the NMRA at the Division and Region levels, and I haven't missed many National Conventions.

As I made my way through the Achievement Program, I was and still am becoming a better modeler, learning and mastering many of the crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. As my skills improve, the benchmarks I set for myself in building models, scen-

ery, structures, trackwork, and wiring all increase along with the sense of personal accomplishment. Because of the educational components of the NMRA and AP, I now feel confident working on projects that would have totally overwhelmed me in the past. Although I was intimidated by it for a long time, even scratchbuilding became something I now enjoy and even look forward to! I have found that the NMRA's model evaluation process is a great help to me in becoming a better modeler. Working on the Achievement Program helped me focus my efforts on setting goals, developing a plan for achievement, and then completing the plan.

I fully recognize, though, that this has not happened entirely on my own; I have been the beneficiary of many expert advisors and fellow modeling friends who have come alongside me to help me in times of frustration and high learning curve situations. As you know, this hobby can indeed be done on your own, but it is so much more satisfying to belong to an Association that encourages fellowship, friendship, and skill-sharing!

In my model building, I seem to channel Malcolm Furlow, George Selios, and Brian Nolan, whose work I greatly admire and who taught me that "weathered and cluttered" are good things!

I am grateful to Cal Winters, who introduced me to "operations" on his Key West Extension layout when we were neighbors in Miami. Also, when I lived in the Denver area, Duncan Harvey and David Vande Castele helped me design and build a home layout that included a helix, which I am still using today, two layouts later. David also helped me understand that using the right tool for the job at hand makes the project go better!

MMR's Gary Butts and Dennis Ivison became great coaches and mentors when they recruited me to help with Division and eventually Region leadership in Southern California and PSR. Chuck Fisher, whom I also met in PSR, has become a life-long friend. We have worked on several modeling projects together but first met when we were randomly paired up to go on a Division layout tour.

I also thank MMR's Jack Hamilton, Bob Parrish, and Bill Fassett, who have become important role models, partners, confidantes, and friends in our work together on the Board of Directors for the

Pacific Northwest Region. Rick Martin, MMR®, has recently been encouraging me to complete the MMR® process, and I recruited him to serve as our Region Treasurer.

One of the last AP certificates I earned was Association Official. I view this achievement as community service: giving back to the hobby and the NMRA. Currently, I am privileged to be serving my second term as Pacific Northwest Region President. My religious beliefs and Scouting background (as an Eagle Scout) encourage me to give servant leadership and make time to help out where and when I can. I began my service to the hobby by volunteering at the Division level to help with train shows and present an occasional clinic. That grew into serving as Division Membership Chair, writing articles for our newsletter, serving as a Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge counselor, and eventually as Division Director. Most of that service also counted toward earning my AP Certificate: Association Volunteer.

As Region President, my focus, and that of our PNR Board of Directors, is to find ways to enhance the value of NMRA membership through the Division. The NMRA's new strategic plan recognizes that Division-level activities represent the fundamental method through which most of the NMRA's core purposes are achieved. In the Pacific Northwest

Region, we strive to recognize that the NMRA works best as a bottom-up, not top-down, organization and are taking steps to implement this vision. Achieving a "personal connection" between every member and the Association is paramount. Our goal is not to contract with individuals for some level of service but rather to create a personal relationship, sharing, at its core, our mutual enjoyment of the great hobby of model railroading! Suffice it to say that they won't care about us unless they know we care about them.

My experience throughout the journey to Master Model Railroader has been one of increased skill development, camaraderie, positive influence, and a sense of accomplishment.

I think we all know the feeling of wanting to share something we love with anyone who will stand still to listen! In promoting the hobby I love, I believe all of us modelers can benefit from the enthusiasm of those who share our passion.

Certificates Earned Jeff Herrmann, MMR® #758

Master Builder - Cars
Master Builder - Structures
Master Builder - Scenery
Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
Association Official
Association Volunteer
Model Railroad Author

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, 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!