



Sunrise Herald

December 2013 Volume 6, Number 12

Notes from the Secretary

We're beginning a new year. Do you have any model railroading resolutions: Perhaps building some new models or super-detailing an existing model, improving your layout (I need to do some cleanup work on mine), upgrading your electrical system, installing some sound decoders in your locomotives, doing some work on our modular layout or even working on an NMRA Achievement Program award? Perhaps you have a topic you would like to present as a clinic? You will find a wish list on the opposite column. There are lots of challenging possibilities, but whatever you decide to do, remember this hobby is all about having fun.

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Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 2nd, at Holy Love Lutheran Church, South Chambers Road, and we hope to see you there. At this meeting we will also be passing the hat to collect for a donation for using the space for our

meetings? We hope that you didn't celebrate the New Year too much that you won't be able to attend the meeting. Our clinic for January will be "*How to Make Your Layout Look Bigger.*" Our Tool Time topic will be "*Model Assembly with Waxed Paper*" and our Show & Tell theme will be "*My Favorite Railroad.*" This could include models, books, etc. to illustrate your choice.

Clinic Topics, Tool Time and Show & Tell Themes

We are in the process of developing clinic topics and Show and Tell themes for the coming year. Your executive committee had a brief side session during our December meeting and came up with some following suggestions:

Clinics:

1. Identifying Modern Diesels
2. Basic Layout Wiring – basic electric circuits.
3. Scenery: Modeling with Sculptamold
4. How to make your Layout Look Bigger
5. Model Photography
6. So You Think You're a Railfan
7. Timetable Operation
8. Applying Static Grass
9. Railroad Car Ferries
10. The Transition from Canals to the first railroads
11. Converting old Horn Hook poor running cars to Kadee, ensuring smooth running trucks and easy-to-do personal touches.

12. Adding DCC sound to an Athearn engine (and others) when there just isn't any room.
13. A new approach to ballasting and protecting that switch during ballasting.
14. Using asphalt roofing for road beds.
15. Mounting slow motion tortoise machines sideways with a different approach to construction.

Tool Time

1. Where to find useful tools.
2. Model assembly with waxed paper.

Let us know if any of these topics are of interest to you. We are looking for additional topics that you might find appealing. Also many of these topics do not have presenters. For additional suggestions or to volunteer to present a topic, please send an E-mail to jonesjcsh@msn.com or steve.schweighofer@comcast.net

December Meeting Notes

Steve Schweighofer, Division Superintendent, called the meeting to order at 7:40. Because we had only one new face at the meeting we dispensed with personal introductions. Jim Laird presented John Griffith with his NMRA Golden Spike Award. With no other new business to conduct, we progressed to Show and Tell. Larry Stephens and John Griffith submitted the only two entries for "Christmas Memories." We then had a break to enjoy the Christmas goodies that members brought in for the meeting. Finally we watched a video titled *The World's Greatest Railroads*. This is a five-disk DVD set showing memorable model layouts and railroad history topics. We didn't have time to view all five disks.



Jim Laird Presents the Golden Spike Award to John Griffith

Upcoming Events

Feb. 15-16-- Estes Park Model RR Show
<http://estesvalleymodelrailroaders.org/rails.htm>

April 5 – Sunrise Division Layout Open Houses
 Layouts and addresses will be announced later.

June 13-15-- SER/MCoR NMRA Joint Regional Convention <http://mrtm.org/convention>

June 19-22-- NMRA Regional Golden Spike Limited, Salt Lake City <http://GSL2014.org>

July 13-19-- NMRA National Convention, Cleveland <http://www.2014cleveland.org/>

Swap Meets

Beginning February 15 and the third Saturday of every even-numbered month, the Sunrise division will host a swap meet at Holy Love Lutheran Church. Bring models and materials you no longer need for sale or exchange. Contact Jay Queiser, 303-699-8853 for details.

December Show and Tell

Larry Stephens presented a Lionel work car. About 1950 his father took him to a Firestone Tire store (they sold Train sets at the time) to select a train set. He spotted a work train set and this tool car in particular. Later his mother dropped a suitcase on the car and broke a roof panel (just to the right of the smoke stack) that his father later repaired.



Larry Stephens Tool Car

John Griffith brought in a Christmas Train decoration that his wife found at a train expo 4 or 5 years ago. It appears to be a resin casting.



John Griffith Christmas Train Decoration

Larry Stephens won the drawing for the Show and Tell Caboose gift certificate.

Module Report

On Saturday, November 30 and Sunday December 1 we displayed our modular layout at the Rocky Mountain Toy Train Show at the Dnver Merchandise Mart. We had numerous visitors during the two days and by all appearances we put on a good show. We added many industrial sidings, buildings and yard tracks since the last show the previous March.



Bill Johnson inspects modules 1 through 5 to ensure that they are ready for operation



A CB&Q F7 A-B lash-up hustles a train across the truss bridge on Module 1



Possibly the highlight of the show was Larry Stephens' double-headed UP Challengers pulling a string of 61 freight cars around the layout. For a while a single Challenger pulled this train.



Another view of the 61-car train. The young girl and her father are attentively counting the cars on the train. Bill Johnson and John Griffith are overseeing operations in the background.

Three things should be evident: we have made a lot of progress since the last show in March, there is still a lot of work to be done before our layout begins to look "finished," and we can already present a very impressive showing. Our sweeping 40- and 42-inch radius curves present a prototypical contrast to the less realistic tight-radius curves that are found on most display layouts.

We had multiple trains running all weekend, operational problems were almost non-existent (what we had mostly related to how to program Digitrax controllers) and attracted a large number of visitors. Several members also took time out to present clinics.



On the west side Rich Flammini's 3M manufacturing plant and the previous Sunrise layout's meat-packing plant are situated along the main line.

The NMRA Achievement Program Award

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a

source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important.

We hope that you will soon find just how easy it is to participate in the Achievement Program, and if you are not yet involved start you off on the right foot. Please visit the AP Staff Roster page to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager.

Achievement Program: Master Builder – Structures

When you think of "structures" don't just think of buildings and bridges.

Structures are just about anything on the layout that was man made and doesn't fit into one of the other Master Builder categories. These are just some examples of the types of 'structures' that you could build to earn this certificate: buildings (all kinds), factories, bridges (all kinds), signal towers, oil derricks, docks, power line towers, cranes (stationary or mobile), ships, etc.

Of course, there is a certain level of complexity expected to qualify for a merit award. If you take a plank and put it across a drainage ditch and call it a bridge, it is unlikely to score 87-1/2 points no matter how nicely modeled a plank it is!

Contact your Regional AP Manager if you have a question about which category a particular model would fall into.

To qualify for the Master Builder - Structures certificate:

1. You must construct twelve scale structures:
 - A. At least six different types of structures must be represented in the total.

The intent of this requirement is show that you can model a variety of types of structures, not just several variations of the same type. For example: a wood frame station and a brick station would be different types, but a wood frame station from Kansas and wood frame station from California would probably not, unless you could show that there was a substantial difference in the construction. When in doubt, why try and split hairs? Instead, try your hand at building something completely different. You might learn some new modeling skills in the process, and who knows? You could even have fun doing it!

- B. One of the six types must be a bridge or trestle.

Before you panic with visions of elaborate wooden trestles dancing in your head, stop for a moment and consider just how many different types of bridges and trestles there on or around a railroad. Remember, your bridge doesn't have to span the

Grand Canyon; a short span over a creek or dirt road may be enough. The point is to demonstrate that you know how to build a bridge that is appropriate and will support the load that it has to carry. If there is no place on your layout for the tracks to cross a bridge, how about a bridge that carries something else? You could replace a grade crossing with a bridge that carries the road up and over the tracks (as many prototype railroads have been doing in recent years), or build a foot bridge like the ones over many rail yards. Finally, remember that you can even build the bridge as a separate model - it doesn't have to go on your layout.

- C. At least six of the models must be scratch built.

The following parts are specifically excluded from the scratch built requirement (although you may scratch build them for additional points):

- Light bulbs & electronics
- Paint, decals, etc.
- Figures
- Basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc.

Something that you should remember if the idea of "scratch building" intimidates you: There is very little difference between scratch building and building most craftsman kits. The big difference is that in a kit the manufacturer has assembled the materials that you

will need, for you. Only the construction need to be done from scratch. If you take someone else's plans and instructions (even those from a kit) and go to the hobby shop and buy the materials yourself and assemble them, that qualifies as scratch building. On the other hand, if you do develop your own plans, make sure that you tell judges that, as it will earn you extra points.

- D. The remaining six, if not scratch built, must be super-detailed with scratch built or commercial parts (for extra points).

There are all sorts of ways to super detail structures. Look closely at what you are trying to model, and see the little details: signs, ladders, electrical fixtures, window details, roof details, etc. For buildings, including an interior (and a way to see it) is definitely recommended, with as much of it as possible scratch built for extra points. Including some sort of "scene within a scene" is a good way to catch the judges' eye. Adding detail to your structures will not only meet this part of the requirements, but will also add to your score, and to the overall appeal of your model.

One way to save money and increase your scratch building score is to buy only one of a particular detail part, and use it as a model to make the rest yourself. This means build the others yourself from scratch, NOT to use the commercial part as a master to make a mold to cast copies of it.

2. You must earn a score of at least 87-1/2 points on six of the twelve models in either an NMRA sponsored contest or in AP Merit Award judging.

Note that only six of the twelve must earn 87-1/2 points. The others don't even have to be judged! They do all have to be described on the Statement of Qualification (see below).

3. You must submit a Statement of Qualification (SOQ - available from the Regional AP Manager) which includes the following:

- An attachment giving a detailed description of each of the twelve models, including:
 - Identification of all scratch built features
 - All commercial components used
 - Materials used in building the model
 - A notation that the model is operational, if it is intended to be
 - If the model is a kit, whose kit is it?
- Verification of the Merit Awards (photocopies of the certificates or signed Judging Forms)
- Photos of the model are helpful, though not required.

Your twelve structures do not all have to be of the same scale or era, or on the same layout. In fact, in most cases, it's better to build the structure separately, have it judged (either in a contest or in separate Merit Judging), and then install it in its final location. In this way, the judges can get a better look at it.

Note: Many contests require that structures NOT be mounted on any kind of sceniced base, or they will be considered "Displays". However, for separate Merit Judging, they can be part of your layout.

Further Information

Contact National Achievement Program General Manager, Paul Richardson, MMR achiev@hq.nmra.org, or your Region or Division Achievement Program Manager for more information.

Also refer to the articles "Master Builder - Structures," and "The Building Inspector," both in the NMRA Bulletin, August 1991.

Forms available for this category:

- SOQ Form: (PDF)
- Record and Validation form: (PDF)
- Judging Form: (PDF)