

NMRA BULLETIN

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HEADQUARTERS

POSITION OPEN: DEPUTY CONTEST MANAGER

The NMRA Education Department has a volunteer position open now for assistance at the National Convention in July, 2007 in Detroit.

Do you enjoy model railroad oriented contests and want to know more about their structure and operation? Do you have experience with data entry and Excel spreadsheets; are willing to supervise staff checking in entries; keep a smile and positive attitude — we need you!

The Deputy will assist the Contest Manager in the contest room several hours Sunday through Thursday of convention week. Please contact Raymond Bilodeau, Contest Manager at raymondbilodeau@ aol.com (302) 636-0888.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT *Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

DECEMBER 2006

GOLDEN SPIKE

Mid Eastern Region

(Charles Flichman, Manager) Pete Clarke, Damascus, Maryland Larry Linville, Clemmons, North Carolina

MASTER BUILDER-MOTIVE POWER

Pacific Northwest Region

(Jack Hamilton, MMR, Manager) * Rene Gourley, PNR 412, North Vancouver, BC, Canada

MASTER BUILDER-CARS

Mid-Continent Region

(Marty Vaughn, MMR, Manager) Randolph Meyer, MCoR 799, Creve Coeur, Missouri

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Scale Rails

MASTER BUILDER-STRUCTURES

Midwest Region

(Marvin Preussler, Manager) Richard Hanke, (L-464), Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Rocky Mountain Region

(Mark Evans, Manager) Richard Sons, (L-3509), RMR 421, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Southeastern Region

(George Gilbert, Manager) Glen Hall, SER 335, Pensacola, Florida

MASTER BUILDER-SCENERY

Mid-Continent Region

(Marty Vaughn, MMR, Manager) Charles Heying, MCoR 798, Overland Park, Kansas Brad Morneau, MCoR 802, Overland Park, Kansas

Southeastern Region

(George Gilbert, Manager) Greg Scharfetter,* SER 334, Bartlett, Tennesee

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER-CIVIL

Lone Star Region

(Al Boos, MMR, Manager)
J. Stephen Sandifer, LSR 512, Meadows
Park, Texas

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER-ELECTRICAL

Lone Star Region

(Al Boos, MMR, Manager)
J. Stephen Sandifer, LSR 511, Meadows
Park, Texas

Mid-Continent Region

(Marty Vaughn, MMR, Manager) Charles Heying, MCoR 796, Overland Park, Kansas

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Allen Merta, MCoR 797, Cedar Rapids,
Iowa

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MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

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(Jack Hamilton, MMR, Manager) Greg Kennelly, (L-1678), PNR 413, Burnaby, BC, Canada

MMRS EARNED



EARL MULLINS EARNS MMR 383

arl Mullins was like many other boys growing up in the early fifties in that he had a great desire for Santa Claus to bring him an electric train. Christmas time for Earl meant traveling to Des Moines, Iowa, with his parents shop. The first place Earl would visit was the toy department in Younkers Department Store. There, he would spend hours viewing the large displays of Lionel and American Flyer trains. He and his dad would then walk to Tripetts Toy Store to see more toy trains. Santa did bring Earl an American Flyer train set, starting an interest in model railroading which has grown into a lifetime hobby. Each Christmas brought more train items. Many children only set up their trains at Christmas and stored them soon after the holidays were over. But not Earl. At the age of eleven he built a layout in the basement for yearlong train operations. When his parents moved to a different house during Earl's sophomore year in high school, Earl tore down the old layout and built a new one. It was during this time that Earl took his AF New York Hudson to have his neighbor repair a simple wiring problem.

Unbenownst to Earl, the neighbor was Karl Winkler, one of two men in Iowa who scratchbuit O scale equipment. When Earl entered Karl's basement he found a whole different level of the model railroading hobby. Karl, who is living in Tucson, Arizona, has built the O scale layout, Paint Creek Rail, which was featured in *Great Model Railroads* 2002.

The four years of undergraduate work at the University of Iowa and Luther College, located in Decorah, Iowa, was the only time Earl was away from model railroading. In 1961 he started his first teaching position as a math teacher and athletic coach, which he continued for 40 years. During that time, he switched to HO scale and built layouts each time he accepted new teaching/coaching positions. The positive part of moving so often is being able to start over and correct the errors made on previous layouts. In 1974, he became the head baseball and assistant basketball coach at Luther College and for the first time Earl joined a model railroad club. This was a turning point for Earl as he had always been a solo model railroader and had not experienced the thrill of helping others or being helped.

In 1979, Earl and wife Dianne, sons Mark and Chad, and daughter Michele moved to Hastings, Nebraska. This opened up new opportunities for railroading. Not only was there a new basement for the layout, there was the chance to see a lot of real trains, because the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe main lines ran through Hastings. The Dianne & Earl Mullins Railroad (D&EM RR) was started in one of the basement rooms and over the years has grown to fill the whole basement. The transfer stations of Cactus Canyon, Cramer Corner, and Hutch Hill were named after their children and the towns of Zacharyville, Tylerville, and Josie Junction were built and named after their grandchildren.

Earl joined the NMRA in the summer of 1990 and attended his first national convention in Denver, Colorado. Membership in the NMRA allowed more new opportunities. Friend Lloyd Larson, MMR, was the first to encourage Earl to consider getting more involved in the Achievement Program. At that time Earl felt he did not have the time to start the program, but tucked the idea away for a project to consider in later years. During the National Convention in Kansas City, Earl and Dianne attended a clinic given by Marty Vaughn, MMR who again encouraged Earl

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to get involved in the AP. At the 2005 Mid Continent Region Convention in Topeka, Kansas, Earl showed the track diagram of the D&EM to Marty, who felt the D&EM had fulfilled many requirements of the Civil Engineering certificate. Marty also got Earl's attention when he explained how a group of model railroaders from the Kansas City area started meeting at members' layouts and working towards fulfilling the requirements of the Chief Dispatcher certificate. That possibility really caught Earl's interest and within a few weeks members of the Platte Valley Division started operations on the D&EM. The operating crew of Mark Malmkar, John O'Neil, Howard Junker, Jim Wells, Lester Lorhan, Sherman Luhn, and Denis Gerloff met with Earl every Monday evening for four months as they fulfilled the requirements of Chief Dispatcher. During the next year, Earl completed the remaining requirements for the Master Model Railroader recognition.

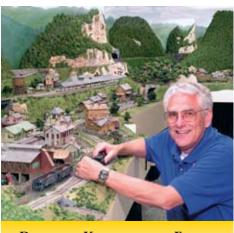
Earl retired from teaching and now spends many hours doing new projects on the D&EM. The railroad has grown over the years to fill five rooms. In the fall of 2002 he decided to rebuild the layout in the Zacharyville room. This project allowed Earl to build a walk-around layout, which is ideal for DCC operations as well as to try new techniques for benchwork, trackwork, and scenery. The MCoR web page hosts Earl's publication of the "Tearing Down and Rebuilding of Zacharyville." The layout is powered by Digitrax DCC with all the engines having sound. The time setting for the layout is toward the end of steam and the beginning of diesels. This allows the running of large steam engines and diesel F-units.

The Achievement Program has exposed Earl to new model railroading techniques and has encouraged him to increase his modeling skills. He recommends the AP to all model railroaders.

Dianne is Earl's greatest supporter and helper. Without her encouragement, achieving MMR status would not have been possible. Her painting skills and ability to visualize true nature have made the D&EM a wonderful layout. Having a wife as a partner in model railroading as well as in life is truly a blessing. Earl is the president of the Tri-Cities Model Railroad Association and a member of the Platte Valley Division of the Mid Continent Region. He and Dianne live in Hastings, Nebraska.

Earl has earned AP Certificates for Association Volunteer, Master Builder-Cars,

Master Builder-Scenery, Master Builder-Structures, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, and Model Railroad Author.



Douglas Kirkpatrick Earns MMR 384

ne of the best things that my dad did was to introduce me to the joy of model railroading. Around the age of five, I can still remember a Lionel layout he had built and the fun I had watching those trains snake through the sharp turnouts. Within a year, our family moved to a new home with a large attic; however, when the layout was reassembled, the trains somehow had shrunken. It was 1949 and an HO scale Mantua 0-4-0 die cast switcher adorned the new layout including several cars and a brass four wheel bobber caboose which I still have on my layout today. As an only child, I spent many an hour helping my dad build and run the layout. It wasn't very sophisticated compared today's standards, but did include several loops, a small yard and a working turntable. I eventually inherited his equipment and realized what a mix of rolling stock he had acquired from Southern Pacific diesels to a New York Central steam engine, and a few B&O RDCs in between. It did not matter to him what was printed on the sides of his equipment, they were just trains to him. That experience helped shape my approach in developing my own Virginia & Western Railroad.

I grew up on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and moved to Northern Virginia after graduating from the University of Maryland with an aeronautical engineering degree. I joined the federal government working for the Navy. I married and started a family allowing little time for the hobby except for the acquisition of kits and motive power. After several years, we traded up in houses resulting in a new home with a 44 x

26 foot unfinished basement; my wish had been answered.

I spent the first year in the new house finishing the basement. I disciplined myself to setting aside an area for a small workshop as well as a potential train crew area which was called the kids' play room. The remaining area was sufficient for a 600 square foot layout with decent aisles and no duck-under. The layout has been the focus of my involvement in the hobby; however, I did join the Northern Virginia Model Railroader Club some 25 years ago, whose members have taught me many skills. Extensive articles on John Allen's G&D railroad influenced me to strive for his realism in scenery, and George Sellios' Franklin & South Manchester Railroad did the same for details. I elected to model a freelance railroad, giving me the freedom to create my own world but I still wanted it to be believable. Living in Virginia and vacationing in the mountains of both Virginia and West Virginia, I selected the Norfolk & Western Railway as my focus for motive power and rolling stock. I selected a time period of the mid-1940s when steam still ruled, but a diesel or two could be operated. Since retiring from NASA nine years ago, I have been able to make significant progress on completing the layout

In the last three years my focus has broadened in the hobby through the encouragement of Noll Horan, a Master Model Railroader, to partake in local NMRA activities. As a life member in the NMRA for the past 30 years (what a financial deal), I finally decided three years ago to submit a model for judging in the Achievement Program, as well as, to hold an open house for my V&W. The model took Best of Show, and I became hooked on the Achievement Program. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that a good deal of what I had accomplished on my layout would qualify for several certificates. With encouragement from many members of the Potomac Division of the MER, and the support of my wife, Lorrie (of 38 years), I have finally earned the last merit award required for Master Builder-Cars based on the passenger car featured in the November issue of SCALE RAILS — my final certificate for my MMR.

Doug has earned certificates in Master Builder-Cars, Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder-Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, and Association Volunteer.

58 Scale Rails