



# NMRA BULLETIN

## DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM MANAGERS

### Executive Department

#### Executive Director—Vacant

If interested in this position, contact Mike Brestel

#### Administrative Department Manager —

##### Jenny Hendricks

4121 Cromwell Rd  
Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119  
O: 423-892-2846 Fax: 423-899-4869  
e-mail: [hq@hq.nmra.org](mailto:hq@hq.nmra.org)

#### Education Department Manager —

##### John M. Lowrance, MMR

8611 Norwich Dr.  
San Antonio Texas 78217  
(210) 822-2628  
e-mail: [educate@hq.nmra.org](mailto:educate@hq.nmra.org)

#### Education Department Assistant Manager —

##### Fred Bock, MMR

5923 Windhaven Dr.  
San Antonio, Texas 78234-2132  
(210) 653-5947 e-mail: [fbock4@aol.com](mailto:fbock4@aol.com)

#### Howell Day Museum Manager —

##### John E. Roberts, MMR (O)

104 Heritage Pointe  
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7894  
H: 757-345-3797 O: 757-345-3118  
Fax: 757-345-6944  
e-mail: [museum@hq.nmra.org](mailto:museum@hq.nmra.org)

#### Information Technology Department

##### Tim Klevar

13570 Grove Drive #227  
Maple Grove, MN 55311  
(612) 293-8698  
[itmgr@hq.nmra.org](mailto:itmgr@hq.nmra.org)

#### Kalmbach Memorial Library Manager —

##### Brent Lambert

4121 Cromwell Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37421  
O: 423-894-8144 Fax: 423-899-4869  
e-mail: [lib@hq.nmra.org](mailto:lib@hq.nmra.org)

#### MAP Department (Marketing, Advertising, Promotion) Manager —

##### Tom Draper, HLM, DSA, FA

10837 N 34th Place  
Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310  
H: (602) 953-1681 Fax (602) 953-0751  
e-mail: [map@hq.nmra.org](mailto:map@hq.nmra.org)

#### Meetings and Trade Show Department Manager —

##### Henry Jordan, HLM (N)

3200 N. Leisure World Blvd #116  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
O: (301) 598-0175 F: (301) 598-0176  
e-mail: [conv@hq.nmra.org](mailto:conv@hq.nmra.org)

#### Member Services Department Manager —

##### Jan Wescott

180 W Middleton Dr  
Henderson, NV 89015  
e-mail: [mbrservices@hq.nmra.org](mailto:mbrservices@hq.nmra.org)

#### NMRA Communications Director

##### Gerry Leone, MMR

6459 Smithtown Road  
Excelsior, MN 5533  
[gerryleone@earthlink.net](mailto:gerryleone@earthlink.net)

#### Publications Department Manager —

##### Larry DeYoung (HO, O)

54 Waterloo Rd  
Devon, PA 19333-1458  
H: 610-293-9098 Fax: 610-293-1715  
e-mail: [pubs@hq.nmra.org](mailto:pubs@hq.nmra.org)

#### Standards and Conformance Department Manager—

##### Didrik A. Voss, MMR (HO)

15226 12th Dr SE  
Mill Creek, WA 98012-3082  
O: 425-337-5222 F: 425-337-6084  
e-mail: [tech-chair@hq.nmra.org](mailto:tech-chair@hq.nmra.org)

#### Fund Raising Department Manager —

##### Vacant

If interested in this position, contact Mike Brestel

## REGION PRESIDENTS

#### Australasian Region—Sowerby Smith

174 Fuller Road, Chatswood, NSW 2067 Australia  
H: 61 2 9411 5726 W: 61 2 9460 7600  
e-mail: [president@nmra.org.au](mailto:president@nmra.org.au)

#### British Region—Tim Rudge

Marsh House, 318 Marsh Road, Hilperton Marsh  
Wiltshire, England BA14 7PL  
H: (01225) 340993 e-mail: [brprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:brprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Lone Star Region—Bill McPherson

4402 Vista Creek Dr. Rowlett, TX 75088-1818  
H: (972) 463-9721  
e-mail: [lsrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:lsrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Mid-Central Region—Richard A. Briggs, MMR

4397 Hidden St Grove City, OH 43123  
e-mail: [mcrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:mcrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Mid-Continent Region—Paul Richardson, MMR

1703 NE 181st Street, Smithville, MO 64089  
(H) 816-866-4043  
e-mail: [mcorprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:mcorprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Mid-Eastern Region—Roger Cason, MMR

410 Bayberry Ln, Jenner's Pond, West Grove, PA 19390  
H: (610) 345-0901 e-mail: [merprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:merprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Midwest Region—Bill Litkenhous

2509 Windwood Dr., Bedford, IN 47421  
H: (812) 275-3634 e-mail: [mwrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:mwrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Niagara Frontier Region—Richard Roth

PO Box 309, Waterford PA 16441-0309  
814-796-0133  
e-mail: [nfrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:nfrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### North Central Region—Jack Watson

31683 Hiddenbrook Drive  
Chesterfield Twp., MI 48087  
H: (586) 598-7407 e-mail: [ncrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:ncrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Northeastern Region—Kenneth May

71 Buff Cap Road, Tolland, CT 06084  
H: (860) 872-3441 e-mail: [nerprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:nerprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Pacific Coast Region—Ron Plies, MMR

921 11th St., P.O. Box 950, Fortuna, CA 95540  
H: (707) 725-9063 e-mail: [pcrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:pcrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Pacific Northwest Region—Jack Hamilton, MMR

10731 Warren Rd. NW Silverdale, WA 98383  
H: (360)-308-9845 e-mail: [pnrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:pnrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Pacific Southwest Region—Ben Sevier

12793 War Horse Street, San Diego, CA 92129  
H: (858) 538-9863 e-mail: [psrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:psrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Rocky Mountain Region—Harold S. Huber Jr.

1405 Dana Ave., Sheridan, WY 82801-2405  
H: (307) 672-8471 e-mail: [rnrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:rnrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Southeastern Region—Bob Beaty, MMR

741 Dividing Ridge Rd., Birmingham, AL 35244  
H: (205) 987-2385 e-mail: [serprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:serprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Sunshine Region—Stan Seeds, MMR

14610 Highland Harbor Ct. Ft. Myers, FL 33908-4938 (239) 454-0972  
e-mail: [ssrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:ssrprez@hq.nmra.org)

#### Thousand Lakes Region—Alan Saatkamp

902 Chestnut St., Harrisburg, SD 57032  
(605) 767-9743  
e-mail: [tlrprez@hq.nmra.org](mailto:tlrprez@hq.nmra.org)

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

\*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

SEPTEMBER 2009

#### GOLDEN SPIKE

##### Australasian Region

Kevin Garland, Taree, NSW  
John Martin, Port Macquarie, NSW  
John F. Martin, Oak Flats, NSW  
Mike Peters, Rainbow Flat, NSW  
Barry Turner, Murrumba Downs, QLD

##### Mid-Central Region

Marissa Pharris, Louisville, Kentucky  
Steve Pharris, Louisville, Kentucky

##### Pacific Coast Region

Hilding Larson, San Luis Obispo, California

##### Rocky Mountain Region

Robert Shearer, Centerville, Utah

#### MASTER BUILDER — MOTIVE POWER

##### Australasian Region

Allen Hare, Stokes Valley, NZL  
Ken Scales, MMR, Winston Hills, NSW

#### MASTER BUILDER — CARS

##### Australasian Region

John Martin, Port Macquarie, NSW

##### Mid-Continent Region

Philip Bonzon, University City, Missouri

##### Mid-Central Region

Gary Burdette, Point Pleasant, West Virginia

#### MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY

##### Australasian Region

Doug Cook, Shortlands, NSW  
John F. Martin\*, Oak Flats, NSW

##### Mid-Central Region

Gary Burdette, Point Pleasant, West Virginia

##### Rocky Mountain Region

Richard Sons, Albuquerque, New Mexico

#### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER —

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Doug Cook, Shortlands, NSW  
John Martin, Port Macquarie, NSW

##### North Central Region

R. Brooks Stover, Oakland, Michigan

#### CHIEF DISPATCHER

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Doug Cook\*, Shortlands, NSW

#### ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

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Mike Bartlett\*, Rainbow Flat, NSW

##### Midwest Region

Christopher Roeben, Madison, Wisconsin

#### ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

##### Australasian Region

Mike Bartlett, Rainbow Flat, NSW  
Geoff Nott, North Rocks, NSW

##### Midwest Region

M. David Johnson, Glenview, Illinois

##### Southeastern Region

Robert Young\*, Sandy Springs, Georgia

#### MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

##### Australasian Region

Allen Hare, Stokes Valley, NZL

##### Mid-Continent Region

Philip Bonzon, University City, Missouri

##### Midwest Region

Jim McQueeny, Rockford, Illinois

MMR GROUP: All MMRs are invited to work with other MMRs by contacting Rick Shoup, MMR, at ricshoup@verizon.net.

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 Dr., Batavia, OH 45103.

## MMR EARNED



PHIL BONZON EARNS MMR #427

As a youngster in the early 1940s, and like a lot of model railroaders, I received a Lionel O-27 train set for Christmas, which was replaced with HO scale equipment after WWII. Several layouts were built during this period with hand-laid track and turnouts, and at the age of 13, I scratchbuilt a brass box cab diesel. In the 1940s, I would bicycle

to the Frisco or Missouri Pacific St. Louis yards and railfan. Once a month I would attend the operating session of the Big Bend Model Railroad Club's O scale layout. As I got older, school, then work, marriage, and children gradually slowed down my model railroading.

During the 1960s and 1970s, I began planning for a Baltimore & Ohio HO layout, buying and building equipment. Other interests such as sailing, boat building and business — designing and providing the exterior walls for high-rise commercial and major monumental buildings around the world — left only time for reading *Model Railroader* and *RMC* and dreaming. During this period I went from being a draftsman, in engineering, to Chief Designer and finally company president. My work and business travels took me to projects all over the World...Kansai International Airport in Japan, Riyadh International Airport in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, and Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong, Torre Major office tower in Mexico City, Sears Tower and John Hancock Tower in Chicago, World Trade Center in New York, Treasury Building in Singapore, just to name a few.

Finally at the end of 2002, I retired and dug out my stored HO plans and equipment. A bicycling accident left me with plenty of time for model building and planning. About three years ago, I decided that the B&O empire I was planning was just too ambitious and I started looking for a shortline that interchanged with the B&O. There was the Buffalo Creek & Gauley railroad in West Virginia with just three 2-8-0s and 18.6 miles of track and it seemed like the perfect railroad to model. There was not much information available on the BC&G and then along came Brooks Stover with his BC&G website that is the mother lode of information — I was hooked. Not only did the website provide me with information, I became interested in researching the BC&G and a contributor to the website [www.buffalocreekandgauley.com](http://www.buffalocreekandgauley.com). Through the Internet, I met some of the wonderful people who worked for the BC&G and/or lived in Clay County, West Virginia, where the BC&G had been located.

In March 2008, I joined the NMRA, met some great people, and joined a weekly operations group. My kitbashing and

scratchbuilding expanded, and encouraged by others, I entered five models in the Gateway Division's 2008 Fall Meet model contest. There, I won four first places and one second place, and started down the AP path towards a goal of MMR. First up were Prototype, Scenery, Structures and Motive Power, followed by Dispatcher, Author and Cars. I got energized by the *SCALE RAILS* 2008 "Year of the MMR" and the encouragement of Brooks Stover, Frank Criswell, Larry Smith MMR, Don Taschner MMR, Rich and Venita Lake, my Thursday Night Ops Group, the great Gateway Division membership, and my wife, Pat, who has put up with me for 54 years. Working on each of the certificates expanded my knowledge, experience and raised my modeling standards and goals... besides, it was fun!

The NMRA will be 75 in 2010, as will I.

*Phil has earned the following certificates: Master Builder—Scenery, Master Builder—Prototype, Master Builder—Structures, Master Builder—Motive Power, Chief Dispatcher, Model Railroad Author, Master Builder—Cars.*

## HEADQUARTERS

### BIDS FOR THE NMRA 2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The NMRA Meetings & Trade Show Department is requesting bids from potential Host Groups for the 2014 NMRA National Convention.

The convention area for 2014 is the central area of North America. The central area is roughly defined as west of a line from the western border of Pennsylvania and the Quebec/Ontario border to states and provinces east of the Rocky Mountains.

If a group desires to host the NMRA National Convention, a letter of intent must be sent to the Meeting & Trade Show Department no later than January 1, 2010.

If interested in hosting the NMRA National Convention, please contact Henry Jordan 301-598-0175 (E-mail [conv@hq.nmra.org](mailto:conv@hq.nmra.org)) for additional information.

### ADDRESS CHANGE? BACK ISSUES OR REPLACEMENT ISSUES OF *SCALE RAILS*?

Members needing to make address changes, request back issues, or replacement issues of *SCALE RAILS* should contact the staff at the national headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, at (423) 892-2846 or by email at [nmrahq@aol.com](mailto:nmrahq@aol.com).

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