

Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division,
Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association



March 2021

Volume 32 Number 2

March Meet Arriving By Wire & Fiber Optics

By Bill Grosse

Normally in March we meet at Switlik Park in Hamilton. Due to the continuing health situation, we will be in our virtual world again. At least you can keep your preferred seat, and have your favorite refreshments too. This meet is on Saturday, March 13, 2021, with log in starting at 8:30am, meet at 9am.

Zoom service will be used as we have received more positive feedback on it than using Free Conference Call.

The Superintendent will send an email update to all subscribers on our Mail Chimp email list, when the newsletter is sent, and again one week before the meet date as a reminder.


If you are not on our email update list to receive Zoom login info, contact me using info on page 2, to request access and update email preferences.

We are having two clinics for this meet, see Director of Clinics John Gallagher's article on page 7 for detailed information.

May 1st will be the 9th Annual NJD/GSD Joint Meet, hosted by the Garden State Division, At this time it is planned to be a virtual meet using Free Conference Call or Zoom, to be decided by GSD. Connection info will be sent. If we are permitted to attend a live meet, it will be held at the Hillsborough Township Municipal Building.

Special Information From Northlandz The Worlds Largest Miniature Wonderland In Flemington, NJ Northlandz.com

Christina Zambri, NMRA Marketing, has been in contact with the new owner of Northlandz. She is working on NMRA Member ticket discounts along with other in person and virtual offers that benefit Members plus Divisions/Regions/National. GSD and NJD will have the easiest access to these benefits due to Northlandz' Flemington, NJ location.

The owner reports progress on cleaning up, repairing, and maintenance. He has plans to make Northlandz a Destination, and looks forward to interacting with us. *(See Northlandz page 4)* 

Bob Price Winner of the March Virtual Contest



Next Division Meet

Saturday March 13, 2021

9 a.m. to 12:00 noon

This will be a Virtual Meet

Contest: This is a Virtual Contest :

A Water Feature such as Rivers, Lakes, a Reservoir, Water Fall, Drainage Ditch, Canal etc.

Clinics:

Rick Stoneking presents a clinic, Creating Train Graphs with JMRI.

Laurie McLean will present a clinic about Animation on the Model Railroad.

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 N. J. Division, NMRA
 P.O. Box 276

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Train Orders is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletter is always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hardcopy newsletter is \$15.00 per year. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in Train Orders in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

Contributing to Train Orders

Train Orders welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be submitted to the editor, Fritz Plenefisch, at fplen3@verizon.net or to 327 Sharps Lane, Hamilton, NJ 08610-1334. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Deadline for the next Train Orders issue: April 1, 2021

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Visit us at <https://njdivnmra.org> and join us on
 Groups at <https://groups.io/g/NJDivNMRA>

Schedules

NJ Division March Meet
Saturday March 13, 2021, 9 a.m. to Noon
This will be a Virtual Meet
Check in starts 8:30 a.m.

Next Board Meeting

April 13, 2021 7:00 p.m.
 Contact njdiv.super@gmail.com
 For access information if you wish to participate.

Next Division Meet

9th Annual GSD-NJD Joint Meet
 Saturday MAY 1, 2021
More information to follow

2021 NER - NMRA Convention Mill City 21, October 8 - 11 Westford MA

The Northeast Region is rescheduling
 Mill City 2020's convention to 2021.
 Visit - MillCity21.org - for more updates

2021 MER - NMRA Convention Mount Clare Junction, Oct. 21-24

Marriott Delta, Hunt Valley, MD (Baltimore)
 Search - Mount Clare Junction on YouTube.com to
 see a preview and other information as it is added.

NMRA 2021 National Convention Rails By The Bay July 4-11 Santa Clara, California

This Convention Has Been Canceled
 Check nmra.org for 2022 NMRA
 Convention information

NJ Division Area Hobby Shops

* **AAA Hobbies & Crafts**
 706 N. Whitehorse Pike,
 Magnolia, NJ 08049
 (856) 435-7645
www.AAAHobbiesandCrafts.com

* **Sattler's Hobby Shop**
 14 Haddon Ave.
 Westmont, NJ 08108
 (856) 854-7136

* **The Train Room Online Store**
www.thetrainroomNJ.com
 e-mail thetrainroomnj@msn.com

* **Yankee Dabbler - Track 33**
 101 W. Kings Hwy, Bellmawr, NJ 08031
yankeedabbler@aol.com

* **Offers discount to NMRA members.**
Must show Current Membership Card

Membership Information

Any person who is a member of the NMRA and lives within the boundaries of the NJ Division as defined by the NMRA is also a member of the division. Non member guests are welcome to attend three of our meets, after which they will be asked to join the NMRA.

NJ Division Annual Activity Fee:
 \$10.00 (optional and includes 5 meets) or
 individual meets \$5 at the door.

First time guests, no charge!
 National Model Railroad Association
 P.O. Box 1328 Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328
www.nmra.org

View From The Cab

By Bill Grosse, Superintendent

First, I want to thank everyone for being part of the New Jersey Division, [the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) too]. You make me proud to say I have been elected to be your Superintendent and previously Paymaster.

I am happy to see the work our members have been accomplishing while we have been derailed from live events, unbelievably coming up on one year already. I have been a participant with some, and receive updated reports from many others.

Some of the activities going on around the New Jersey Division (NJD) include;

- ◆ A lot of new scenery and trackwork, Scratch building of locos, cars, buildings, track, & scenic elements.
- ◆ Railroad expansions, whole railroads being moved & rebuilt.
- ◆ Small groups of Operators/Modelers meeting on services like Zoom to talk, plan, help, teach, and show off, Virtual world mini clinics, photo and video shows, and much more.

All helpful to expand our view beyond our own property lines, and to stay in touch with friends.

If you have been doing something you think will interest others, send me a note so I can post something about it.

There has been a lot of excellent work done by members in their quests of obtaining

Achievement Program (AP) and Gold Spike Certificates. AP Chairman PJ Mattson will be reporting on the progress.

It's nice to see the Great Work going on, keep it up everyone.

Next is Very Important Information From NMRA Legal NMRA At Risk Persons Policy

Due to events that have happened around the country, the NMRA has assembled a policy to follow concerning At Risk Individuals. These individuals include **Minors** (persons under the age of the majority) and **Persons Having a Legal Guardian** (includes adult age with special needs).

The policy was adopted March 2020 by the NMRA. Our Board of Directors has been reviewing it at Board Meetings, and working to ensure we follow the requirements properly. The no live meetings order is allowing us to ease into this and giving time to make sure we are in compliance when we go live again.

This policy details the limits that have been set in regards to At Risk Persons in attendance, and how they must be with their Legal Guardian At All Times.

Additional information has recently been received on this policy particularly relating to the NMRA and the Boy Scouts.

We shall eliminate and/or refrain from using the terms - "Scouting", "BSA", "Boy Scouts", and any other analogous or similar terms in

written documents or verbal discussions within the NMRA, including any New Jersey Division Meet, Board Meeting, Clinic, Presentation, or any gathering of NMRA Members. We will no longer use or have the terms in any minutes, presentations, publications, by-laws, or any written communications.

There is further information regarding donation requests of materials or time by a non profit to NJD/NMRA, or donations of materials or time to a non profit by NJD/NMRA. We can not make any donations of materials/time/knowledge representing the NJD/NMRA. An NMRA member may ask for material donations, but must make it clear he/she is representing an anonymous non profit or themselves, and not the NMRA/NJD.

I'm including a link to the full document, and updated information in the latest and next NJD email updates, to allow everyone time to read and understand the full details of the policy.



NORTHLANDZ

By Christine Zambri, NMRA Marketing

NMRA Member Benefit Program

This information is from a meeting with Tariq Sohail, the owner of Northlandz and Christina Zambri, NMRA. There will be a link to Christina's photos of the facility in the NJD email update.

Northlandz is willing to provide the following :

Free of charge (or for a small piece of the profit for product sales):

1. Use of their event space for any NMRA-sponsored activities, including Region Conventions.
2. Placement of a link to the NMRA website on their site
3. Placement of NMRA printed materials in the visitor area
4. Display and sales of NMRA members' products (for those with their own businesses), as well as NMRA national, regional and division products – this would work on a consignment basis
5. A 20% discount to NMRA members, a special membership card identifying them as NMRA members, plus additional perks and a souvenir
6. Space to store, work on and display modular displays
7. Access to all areas of Northlandz for virtual events (not as a commercial ad)
8. Numerous areas to display artwork, collections, etc.

Northlandz is looking for:

1. At least one member to act as a tour guide, caretaker, education provider when they are open. (This is a paid position and the person should have people skills)
2. A volunteer (s) to maintain, fix and run the outdoor train (Those with people skills are preferred)
3. Inclusion in ad space in National, Regional and Division publications
4. Inclusion in virtual events, which can include "behind-the-scenes" tours, layout tours, etc. Again, these would NOT be ads for Northlandz
5. Volunteers to conduct occasional on-site clinics
6. Volunteers to help with maintaining the layout, as well as add more technology such as animation and lighting
7. The general knowledge of experienced modelers

Next Steps To Get This Started:

1. An in-person meeting between Tariq, Christina, Bill Grosse-NJD, and Mark Moritz/Jim Homoki-GSD
2. Get the word out to the closest Division's Members.
3. Find willing volunteers.

Other Notes

Tariq is not a model railroader, so the value we can provide in knowledge alone is very

important to him, which is why he is happy to offer our members so much in return.

Please keep in mind that all volunteers would have access to space for working on their own projects and displaying them, if desired.

The entire facility is handicap accessible.

Northlandz has the capacity for 2600 visitors touring and 500 for events.

There are numerous rooms that the NMRA could use for events, storage, personal workspaces, etc.

Northlandz is currently working on approval to have a hotel built on the site, for the goal of making their attraction into a destination.

Within a short drive from Northlandz, there is the Black River & Western RR, the New Hope & Ivyland RR, Flemington Outlet shopping/restaurants/breweries and a distillery, and also the New Hope, PA attractions.

Northlandz is currently open Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays, if you would like to visit.

See - Northlandz.com - for more information.

If you have any questions, contact Bill Grosse for NJD, or Chuck Diljak for GSD, then we will get you answers through the proper person having the information.



Model Contest News

By Jack Menaker, Model Contest Chairman

Thanks to everyone who submitted an entry picture and to all members who voted.

The idea of the contest was so members could show some of their layout that could not be transported to a MEET. Remember those?

All of the entries that were submitted were impressive, showing off the builders skills.

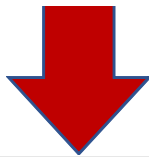
Congratulations to Bob Price for his rendition of the Kalispell Paper Mill. This is a 24" x 36" area on his layout. Bob will be awarded a certificate and a one year activity fee pass for his win.

The next contest, scheduled for the March Meet, is to show a picture of a "Water Feature".

Includes any of the following; a river, stream, creek, lake, reservoir, ocean scene, waterfall, drainage ditch, canal, etc. Use your imagination. It must contain a representation of water. No dry creek beds. It also must relate somehow to a railroad. Something in the picture should be railroad related (train, track, building)

We will also be requesting an entry form to be filled out and submitted with the picture. Bill Grosse and I have been working on the form that will be able to be filled out electronically and sent in with the picture.

In the future, we will still conduct the boxcar challenge. So, you have plenty of time to work on your entry.



THE
WINNER



Kalispell Paper Mill
By Bob Price



Campbells Kings Cannery
By Jim Shepard



Lipton Tea
By Bill Wallace



Tidewater Grainery
By Bill Wallace

ACHIEVEMENT and the PANDEMIC

By P. J. Mattson MMR

The Pandemic has not stopped some of our members from pursuing their Achievement Certificates (AP).


Just before the Covid Pandemic started myself and two of the judges went to Paul More's to judge his electrical work. His certificate didn't get back to me until a week after the social distancing started. I put his certificate in my mail box and he picked it up.

Also just before the Pandemic started, we went to Chris Conaway's to judge some of his freight cars. He needed to do some more work on two of the cars. We gave him our judging and comment sheets so he could bring those cars up to the

required points. Well into the Pandemic Chris was finally ready for rejudging. He brought them to one of the judges houses and with social distancing the two judges reviewed the cars. Then they sent me their results. Chris then brought the cars to me for final judging.

In the meantime Thom Radice sent me all his paperwork for the Author Certificate. I got Thom's Certificate but not Chris's.

I contacted the Mid East Region AP. Chris's paperwork was somewhere in the wind. The NMRA AP was contacted and new paperwork was sent in and the Certificate was sent straight to me. I got Chris's Christmas Eve.

Before this I got paperwork for an Association Volunteer for John Gallagher. I now have 2 more Certificates I am waiting for. The Pandemic has been keeping us tied down with social distancing and all, so this is a good time to get to work and get the AP Certificates. I have judges that are volunteering to do judging. So get to work. 

Contest continued from page 4



Flight Balloon Mfg



Pleasantville Basic Oxygen Furnace
All three by P.J. Mattson



Pleasantville Steel Furnace

Clinics for the March Meet

By John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics

Greetings. We will approach the end of winter season this month. With warmer weather, the outdoors will beckon us to attend to our garden, lawn, and house exterior. So, it is best we complete those projects we worked on during the winter.

That doesn't mean that we end our model railroading activities. To motivate you to explore new ways to approach your modeling, we offer two clinics virtually via Zoom. One concerns operations and the other will challenge you to explore some non-traditional ways to model motive power and rolling stock plus apply the same techniques to your scenery.

First up, NJ Division member **Rick Stoneking** presents a clinic **Creating Train Graphs with JMRI**. What's that? Well, tune in about 8:30 AM on Saturday, March 13 via Zoom and socialize with fellow participants. Doing that, you will confirm that the technology of Zoom meetings works properly so you don't miss any part of the meet.

At the appropriate time, Rick will take control of the meet communications to present his topic. **PLEASE MUTE YOUR ZOOM SCREEN BY CLICKING THE MICROPHONE ICON/PICTURE ON THE LOWER LEFT CORNER OF YOUR SCREEN! If you don't see it, hover your mouse arrow around the lower left corner of your screen and it will appear.**

A diagonal line should appear across the microphone image confirming you are mute. If your mike is already muted, do nothing. [This prevents you from unintentionally interrupting the presentation because you cough, sneeze, snore, curse, other body noises, the dog barks, the wife comes to you to ask an irrelevant question, door slams, the door bell rings, phone rings, ALEXA speaks, loud TV, ...]

Creating and using train graphs meets one of the requirements for the Chief Dispatcher Achievement Program (AP) Certificate. Train graphs provide a cool way to look at scheduled traffic on your railroad. They give you and your guest operators easy to understand information on a planned timetable schedule including meets with other trains and expected timed progress of a run from departure to destination. JMRI [Rick will describe it.] provides a tool for creating these graphs. He used JMRI to create a train graph for the Burlington County Model Railroad Club's operation sessions. Train graphs provide useful operations information on all layouts, large and small.

Our second clinic comes from Australia. **Laurie McLean, MMR** presents a clinic about **Animation on the Model Railroad**. Most of you grew up with animation on your Lionel or American Flyer layouts from the railroad crossing guard who would come out of

his shack when the train approached to log loaders, cattle cars with moving cattle, the milk car with the worker delivering milk cans, the water tower with the moving spout, the rotating air route beacon, the flashing crossing lights, the operating crossing gates, and many others. When we became **"scale model railroaders,"** we wanted to get away from all that kid stuff! However, our magazines regularly offer articles on animation of our layouts. Many now protect crossings with flashing lights, servos and Tortoise machines now lower crossing gates and water tank spouts, and we now creatively use LED's to illuminate structures, fire boxes in locomotives, simulate arc welding, sound in our locomotives, etc. Laurie takes us to a new level with challenging ideas for scratch built animation. He is amazing!

What topic on model railroading or the prototype can you offer in a clinic? It is not hard to do with Zoom and I do need a clinician for our joint May 2021 meet with the Garden State Division. **Please contact me.** My contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter. I assisted Tom and Jim in preparing and practicing their January clinic on Garden Railroading. They became comfortable with the process through our practice on-line presentation and they did well. Thanks, Tom and Jim.

You can do it too. Thanks.



50th Anniversary Gondola Cars

by Mike Prokop

So, just a quick review about the cars. They are \$35 each, or a set of two for \$65. Car numbers are 1968 and 2018, which are the years that the New Jersey Division was founded and the year we celebrated our 50th anniversary. The gondola is from Tangent Models and is a superb model of a 70 Ton 52'6" Riveted Drop End Gondola. The placement of the brake wheel on the side is an identifying feature of a drop end Gondola.

They're ready to run out of the box and come with Kadee couplers.

We acquired 216 units with equal amounts of the two car numbers. Between pre-orders and sales, almost half are sold out so don't wait too long to get yours. See me at the division bookstore during the meet to buy some cars. Cash or your check will consummate the deal and you'll be hauling stuff around your layout in no time!

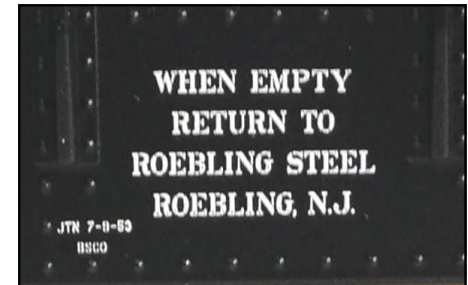
These are not only excellent looking and beautifully running cars, but, for a car obviously not decorated for a prototypical railroad, they do have the look of an authentic gondola that you might see in any train consist from the 1930's to the 1980's.

To order by mail see the Order Sheet on page 8. USPS Priority Mail postage is: \$9 for one car and \$10.75 for two cars.



The Reporting Marks "NJDX" for this car identify the owner as the New Jersey Division and the "X" designates a Private or Non-railroad owner.

This Stencil indicates the Gondola is in Assigned Service to Roebing Steel. It must be returned to Roebing after its load has been delivered.



New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Gondola

**Tangent Scale Models Bethlehem 70 Ton
Riveted Drop-End Gondola in HO Scale
The cars are In Stock and Ready to Run
They have been produced with two numbers
to Commemorate our 50th anniversary
1968 & 2018**

**The car body is black with white lettering
and data conforming to the 1950s
The cost is \$35.00 for one car or
a set of both numbers for \$65.00
A check made payable to the NJ Division
must be included with your order**

Name_____

Address_____

City, State and Zip code_____

Telephone_____Email_____

See Tangent website for more info support@tangentscalemodels.com

Return this form to N.J. Division NMRA, PO Box 276, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276

What I Did During the Covid-19 Lockdown

By Bill Wallace

I built this 2' x 4' Harbor Module using toilet tissue with white glue painted green to match the color of the water I boat in.



This an overview of the Harbor showing the water made from toilet tissue and diluted white glue.



Above
The two fishing vessels in this picture were constructed following an article in the January 2020 MODEL RAILROADER.



Upper right
The fish are being unloaded by a rail crane and being loaded into the truck for transport to the Smith Bros. fishery.



Lower right
This is a kitbashed building from Art Curren's "Old but Still Superior" article in MR and also featured in Kalmbach' book "Kitbashing HO Model Railroad Structures".

All Photos Bill Wallace



Judgment Day

Perspectives on Being Judged and Judging for a Achievement Program

By Thom Radice, Mike Prokop Jack Menaker

Model railroading has more to offer than I sometimes realize, intellectually. But having an experience of what I *think* I know provides much more than I could have imagined. You see, there is a huge difference between thinking I know something and actually experiencing what I thought I knew. Here is a case in point.

Over the years, some of you have graced my home for an open house. Inevitably, several of you people, being complimentary of what we are creating with this layout, have encouraged me to take on the Achievement Program (AP) journey. I had spoken to Fred Willis and Dick Guenther a number of times at division meets and in my home about AP. I was grateful for the encouragement and recognition of such an endeavor, but only intellectually, I had never had my work assessed or judged, which is certainly more to-the-heart. One other motivation to be judged was just to have a couple of rail buds visit. The first step was getting my paperwork completed. I chose the Structures AP first. And if I was going to have judges visit, I may as well do the required six scratch-built structures. The paperwork was a bit daunting, I received guidance on several occasions from Fred and others. I was surprised by how much the paperwork process gave me insights as to the steps that I would not have considered to replicate or build upon

for future builds. Bottom line: completed the requirements for the paperwork.

Fred was the lead judge and we needed two others. Mike Prokop and Jack Menaker volunteered. Mind you that neither Mike nor Jack had prior judging experience. We all met for lunch prior to visiting my layout. Once here, ground rule one: I was not to comment or ask questions; the idea is that my paperwork would be their guide. I was the proverbial fly on the wall. I found it quite educational, however, listening to how they discussed the particulars of each model. One judge pointed out features that another or both did not see. In most cases, it favored additional points awarded. However, one observation was how seamlessly these three worked together. I would not have known that neither Mike nor Jack had judged previously. They were complimentary as a judging team. When all was said and done, two of my structures achieved the required 87.5 points. (See Photos on page 12) What I received, in addition to my successful models, were terrific comments on how to improve various elements of the other models. They highlighted details I had not considered. This truly speaks to the value of our comradely as modelers. They truly wanted to offer ways to improve in addition to recognizing good work. I must say it was a little challenging for me to hear what

I missed or could have done differently. But the spirit of being supportive was ever present. I approached the process with the mindset of someone who wanted to learn from other modelers and obtain insight that was more in depth than what I would have learned from comments in general encounters at meets (in-person or virtually). Their focus was specifically on my work because of the process.

Here are a few learning points from my experience:

To be judged is actually a privilege because as a modeler I learned things I would not have ever imagined. Judges make good suggestions as well as highlight modeling elements that I had not considered. The "criticism" offered is meant to be helpful, not dismissive. It's also quite fun to be acknowledged for good work.

The fact that there are three judges appears to be a perfect combination; there was always a tie breaker; Since we followed quarantine protocols for the time being, having a few train buddies here was a real treat. A few people are manageable from a safety point of view.

And thanks again to Mike, Jack and Fred for spending the afternoon here. I appreciate your diligence and devotion to how you assessed and discussed the structures.



This exterior view of the Roundhouse shows the footprint of the structure. Walls are Heki foam brick sheets along with Grandt Line windows and shutters. There are approximately 1,000 pieces in the building and it took about 95 hours to complete.



The Atlanta Rolling Mill, built circa 1855, produced cannon, rail and iron plates for ironclads. However, their specialty was re-rolling worn rails. Toward the back of this view are “billet” furnaces which took raw iron ore and melted off the ore. When ready, the iron was then taken to the rollers where they’d put through several sets of rollers to shape the iron into the final product, in my case rails. Workers wore long leather aprons as protection. I added these to my figures using old metallic toothpaste tubes. Many years ago I used this same material to shape into flags.

The interior view presents an idea of worker activities. Although major repairs were done in an adjacent maintenance building, I included aspects of this work here due to limited space for a maintenance building. Various details such as workbenches, locomotive parts and materials are Precision Scale, BEST and BTS. Figures are Musket Miniatures, Prieser and Model Power.

The Judge's Perspective

Mike Prokop

My role as Achievement Program judge began as a great opportunity to deliver a "special track work" turnout I had built for Thom Radice, but evolved into much more and was an experience I fully enjoyed for a number of reasons. Early on during the pandemic, I had built a "stub double slip switch" specifically for a section of his layout at the approach of the Atlanta Station. With safety precautions in place and delivery delayed for some time, this was my chance to supply the goods for his Civil War themed layout.

It was the week before Christmas, and I was off on my merry way to Thom's house. After a brief lunch and introduction into my role as judge, we were off to Thom's.

We three wise men, er – I mean judges - observed Thom's hard work, discussed his achievements, and developed a scoring system that resulted in Thom receiving AP points for two of his structures. I never expected I'd be having such an enjoyable experience that afternoon discussing analytical assessments, creativity and craftsmanship for a fellow modeler.

My take-a ways...Going forward I will be pursuing more opportunities to be involved with judging. I welcome the opportunity to be mentored by established judges like Fred so I can enhance my abilities.

This kind of "schooling," will also help me personally in improving my building skills with structures, and might lead me to an opportunity to attain an AP certificate in this field.

From my experience, I recommend folks consider exposing themselves to judging in one way or another. I guarantee it will be a fulfilling experience that may help hone model -building skills and open up opportunities in modeling you may not have otherwise considered. Sit with a judge to observe the process and determine if the experience would be a benefit.

Finally, I'll thoroughly reinforce what Thom said about getting together with some train buds. You can do the virtual stuff on Zoom, YouTube or whatever, but visiting with good friends at a great layout wins out every time. Greatly looking forward to seeing all of you at our future "normal" division meets!

Jack Menaker

In our tag team approach to inform all our NMRA friends, I have to agree with everything that Mike Prokop stated in his review of the events that day.

I have been a member of various online Model Railroad Web sites specializing in modeling (scratch building, kit bashing, scenery etc.) for many years.

I am far from an expert modeler, but enjoy construction of structures the most. I have built many structures for the members in my round robin group, "The Rail Rats." I have set up my layout as a representation of sections of Newark NJ, with various models of architecture, and am constantly trying new methods for enhancing my modeling.

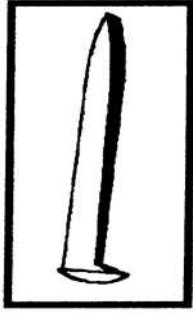
I received a call from our Super, Bill Grosse, who has been to my layout asked if I would be interested in helping Fred Willis judge some buildings for an AP award.

I was happy to participate and received a call from Fred. After talking about the role of a judge and how assessments work, I decided to go into this, and we set up a date to visit Thom Radice.

I have visited Thom's layout in the past after a meet and was impressed with the detail of a layout depicting scenes from the Civil War. Since it was one of many layouts that day, and I was not judging,

During judging under Fred's tutelage, the review of the buildings was very, very intense. Some opportunities for improvement were noted and reviewed with Thom at the end of the judging. This was helpful to him in modifying items he had not considered during original construction and will allow him to make improvements that could boost his score the next time.





ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR

Member's Name _____ NMRA#: _____ EXP: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratchbuilding and superdetailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.

QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

- Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.
- Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

- Three types of trackage required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.
- All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command control).
- Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____