

# Train Orders

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

November 2017

Volume 28 Number 5

## Modeling In The Fourth Dimension The Bordentown Holiday Train Show 2017


Mike Prokop

Queue up the Twilight Zone theme and Rod Serling chain smoking a cigarette!

Is it another rerun of a Twilight Zone episode, or is it possibly what's going on down in your model railroad room! Do you model in the Fourth Dimension? Does your model railroad blur in and out of reality experiencing time travel? Not really, come on, it's not that far fetched. Think about it...we all do it. We can easily time travel in our model railroading world. And to think we don't need some weird alien technology, or a so-called "time tunnel" or "tardis" phone booth! All we need is an appreciation and love of old and new technology. If model railroading is supposed to be fun, then it's okay to have a steam engine running down your main line now and then, even though you model contemporary modern times. Or vice versa, picture a consist of three SD70ACe's with a string of double stacks blasting through your beautifully detailed scene of the center of Bordentown, back in the days of the old Camden & Amboy! Get the "John Bull" on the siding as fast as you can! Yikes!

Well, you all know you do it. Even you guys

that have built your railroad to a specific timeframe or even an exact time on a particular day way back when. It's okay, go ahead and enjoy now and then!

Speaking of modeling in the 4th dimension and train time travel, that's what goes on at the Free-mo setup at the train show. This year both Bill Grosse and I are back to Old City Hall in the heart of Bordentown with our Free-mo modules. Bill runs Conrail (1980's) on his Yardville, NJ themed modules, while I model Reading operations in 1959 on the Camden waterfront Definitely crossing to the 4th dimension. The gig starts Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and continues throughout December weekends on those same days and admission is free. Come on down to Bordentown and see lots of different scale trains on display. We'll even let you run the trains on the Free-mo modules if you like. You can stroll down the quaint old time main street with many interesting shops and explore the historic railroad history of Bordentown, and dine at an diverse choice of many fine restaurants. As they say, **"Come On Down to Bordentown"**. 

**Next Division Meet**  
**Saturday November 18, 2017**  
**9 A.M. TO 12:00 Noon**  
**15 E. Lacy Road**  
**Forked River, NJ**

**Contest:**  
**Detailed Caboose/Cabin Cars**

**Clinics:**  
**Ed Sproles**  
**Track is Part of the Model Too**  
**Second Clinic TBD**

**Layout Tour:**  
**Saturday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

**Swap tables:**  
**Bill Grosse**  
**609 532-3431**  
**W.grosse.jr@optimum.net**

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## Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division  
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA  
P.O. Box 8694  
Trenton, NJ 08650  
www.NJDivNMRA.org

*Train Orders* is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletter always available at NJ Division website. Mailed hardcopy newsletter is \$7.00 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 emailed to the editor, Fritz Plenefisch, at [fplen3@verizon.net](mailto:fplen3@verizon.net). Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Deadline for the next issue: Dec 12, 2017

### Board of Directors 2017 - 2018

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[pjmattson@comcast.net](mailto:pjmattson@comcast.net)

## Schedules

### Next board meeting

December 19, 2017  
Host: Jack Menaker  
[jackmenaker@yahoo.com](mailto:jackmenaker@yahoo.com)  
732 908-6571

Please let us know if you plan to attend.

### NJ Division NOVEMBER Meet

Saturday November 18, 2017  
9 A.M. TO 12:00 Noon  
15 E. Lacy Road  
Forked River, NJ  
Contest: Detailed Cabooses/Cabin Cars

### NJ Division January Meet

Saturday January 13, 2018  
Grace Episcopal Church  
7 East Maple Street  
Merchantville, NJ 08109  
Contest: Detailed Maintenance  
Of Way Cars

### Severna Park Model Railroad Open House

12 noon until 5pm Dec 2&3, 2017

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD  
APPLICATION FORM  
is the last page in *The Second Section*.

## NJ Division Area Hobby Shops

### Sattler's Hobby Shop\*

14 Haddon Ave.  
Westmont, NJ 08108  
(856) 854-7136

### Jackson Hobby Shop\*

2275 West County Line Rd.  
Jackson, NJ 08527  
(732) 364-3334  
[www.jacksonhobby.com](http://www.jacksonhobby.com)

### The Train Room\*

715 Arnold Ave.  
Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742  
(732) 892-5145  
[www.thetrainroomNJ.com](http://www.thetrainroomNJ.com)

### Yankee Dabber - Track 33

101 W. Kings Hwy.  
Bellmawr, NJ 08031  
[yankeedabber@aol.com](mailto:yankeedabber@aol.com)

\* Offers 10% discount to NMRA members

### 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

## View From the Cab

**Bill Grosse, Superintendent**

Thank you for welcoming me in as the Superintendent, and the new board members. If you have any comments for the board or input on NJ Division activities, Please email me or any Director or stick a note in the suggestion box. I will read them all and see what we may be able to do on the input. Some items that can be included are: Clinics, Suggested Meet Locations, Special Activities.

I am writing this as the Mid-Eastern Region NMRA Convention, The Susquehannock is wrapping up. The Susquehanna Division hosted this well done convention in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania..

The New Jersey Division had a nice attendance (28), second only to the Hosting Susquehanna Division (54). I would like to thank our NJ Div. members who stepped up and presented clinics and then went even further by filling in with last minute clinics when other clinicians had to cancel.

Mike Prokop opened the first clinic of the convention and presented others, John Gallagher gave some clinics too. Fred Willis was sidelined due to unforeseen circumstances, and didn't make it to the Convention, so David Albertson had a Clinic in his pocket and dove right in to fill an empty clinic slot.

Some New Jersey Division Members added to the action in the Contest Room. David Albertson entered his scratch built Raritan Tower and received 1<sup>st</sup> Place and a Merit Award. Mike Prokop and I both entered Free-Mo Modules, the first modules entered in at least nine years. As Contest Chairman Martin

Brechbiel, put it we both showed exceptional work, earning over 100 points each. I ended up with 1<sup>st</sup> Place by only a few points.

NJ Division Charter Member John Johnson received 1<sup>st</sup> Place and a Merit Award for his Covered Hopper Car entry. Bruce Barrett showed up with the Largest, Loudest and Heaviest entry, a 1-1/2" Scale, PRR SW9 Locomotive that is Battery Powered and has TCS WOW Sound. He walked away with 1<sup>st</sup> Place and a Merit Award.

### **The New Jersey Division Will Be 50 Years Old in May 2018**

We have been receiving suggestions and are looking into what to do for the 50th Anniversary. If you have anything to talk about doing let us know, or have an idea that you would like to present and also like to help with getting done, we would appreciate it.

We are getting information for a Special Car Set, thanks to Tom Lavin's work reaching out to many manufacturers. Currently we are considering a 40' or 50' Gondola, with a build date no later than 1955-56, with car data, NJDX and 2 car numbers -1968 and 2018, metal wheels and couplers. We may look at putting a very small 'When Empty Return To ...' on the sides. We are hoping we can keep the cost per car down like we did with the sand hoppers we had a few years ago.

We also have a suggestion to have a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Director Jack Menaker is looking into this, if you would like to help out on this please contact him.

### **We are Having a Special Clinic Event**

Some members have been asking for a Free-Mo Modules Clinic, but it is a time and work problem to bring in, set up, use for an hour or so and take down. It is 6-7 hours moving and setting up for 1 hour or so. Mike Prokop and Bill Grosse will be having their Free-Mo Modules set up for the Annual Bordentown City, NJ Holiday Train Show, from Black Friday through the first weekend in January. We have set up Saturday December 16, 10am to 2pm, to have a Special Clinic Day on Free-Mo Modular Railroading. We will also have Mike McNamara assisting us in the Clinic. We are presenting Track Planning and Connection Standards, Types of Construction, Wiring Standards, and "I Built My Module(s), Now What?", To Cover Transportation and Set Up Concerns.

The Bordentown Train Show is every Fri., Sat., & Sun., with Free Admission. It Includes HO Free-Mo, American Flyer, Lionel O, Standard, and #1 Gauge, Lego Train Layout, G Scale and more. It is in Old City Hall, 13 Crosswicks St., Bordentown.

### **The Bob Liberman 'Car Inspector Award'.**

We presented the first Bob Liberman "Car Inspector Award", at the last MER Convention in Harrisburg. This is the annual award given to a rolling stock entry in the convention contest room. Our own members in attendance select their favorites and the entry with the highest number of votes wins the plaque along with \$100 to their favorite hobby shop.

Jim Homoki from the Garden State Division of the North East Region is the first winner. His super detailed CNJ Caboose with many details added on the bottom, would have made Bob say "This looks OK as he walked by."

### Upcoming Meet Schedule and Layout Tours

Director Chuck Higdon has been hard at work making reference charts of past meet locations and open layout tour locations.

The idea is to plan some meets farther in

advance so we can find new layouts to open for tours, and to set up back up plans for meet locations in case of relocation need. Like we usually know to plan January in Haddon Twp. (until now) area, and Hamilton Twp. in March.

We have had to change from our usual meet location for January due to a projected cost increase at the Haddon Twp. High School. We will be meeting at Grace St. Paul Church in Merchantville, NJ, home of the Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club. This will also be used as the joint meet with Philadelphia Div.

We are trying hard to keep rental costs down, we have run from \$0 to \$180 so far. We will be higher in Forked River in November, but with advance planning the next time, we should be able to get back to \$150.

Chuck is also using the advance planning so he can get our meet locations into the NMR A Magazine, and Railroad Model Craftsman Magazine to try to boost attendance and membership.



## Clinics For The November 2017 Meet

**John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics**

Many of us remember those exciting times when we got our first train set and couldn't wait to get down some track and run trains. Whether Lionel, American Flyer, Marx or, in the '50's with HO train sets, we created a track configuration using track components made of sheet metal or plastic ties with steel rail. We followed with an electrical connection and putting our train on the track. It worked!

Eventually we had to remove the track and trains from the floor, especially if received as a holiday gift from Santa, and store them in the boxes. However, we wanted to run trains during the year. Many obtained a sheet of plywood and screwed the track to it, our first layout. As we grew in our newfound hobby, we noticed our track didn't look like the real thing, especially the tinplate track. American Flyer came out with their rubber profiled track base to

insert their track, improving the image. Others followed.

Fast forward to our modeling today. How does your track and right of way [ROW] look? What do you need to consider in improving your trackwork, making it more prototypical?

NJ Division member Ed Sproles will present a clinic titled Track is Part of the Model, Too. In model railroading, we make an effort to highly detail our models. Then, too often, we place these detailed rolling stock on track with glossy plastic ties, silver colored rail and an unrealistic ballast profile. How can you model track and ROW that looks like the prototype?

Ed will help you understand the prototype standards for trackwork and its underlying structure. With that knowledge, he will show how to build track structure and detail it to reflect the prototype.

Due to scheduling problems, we cannot confirm the second clinic at press time. We will get a clinic presenter scheduled by the meet date.

I am always seeking clinic presenters for upcoming meets. We will hold NJ Division meets in January, March and May of 2018. What do YOU do well in model railroading? Do not compare your best skill with others. We are interested in what YOU do best and what we can learn from you in your best modeling skill. Each of us has a better way to do modeling and you can share your better way with us. Please volunteer on the sign up form on the clipboard that I pass around at each meet. I am always available to listen to your ideas and to assist you in planning and setting up a clinic. Please speak to me if you have questions or concerns. Thank you.



## Model Contest News

**Jack Menaker, Model Contest Chairman**

At our September 2017 meet in Millville NJ, the contest was for Detailed / Weathered Flat Cars with Loads.

We had six entries.

- Entry number one was from Tom Lavin. It was a four truck HD flat car carrying a 44-ton diesel switcher.
- Entry number two was from Bill Howard. It was a depressed flat car in a scene with mixed detritus on it. The load reminded me of Bill's layout containing a lot of stuff.
- Entry number three was from Mike Prokop. The load was of a large atomic bomb. Kinda a funny way to ship munitions.
- Entry number four was from Ron Baile. Ron had used some wheels from a matchbox earth mover which made an impressive load.
- Entry number five was from Pat Tanterelli. Pat showed two Sn flatcars. One was inverted so that everyone could see the framework.
- Last but not least was an entry from Frank Neufeld. Frank displayed a flatcar with a load of farm tractors and another one with a vertical engine boiler.

There were 18 votes from an audience of about 65 attendees. That is not a very impressive number. The contestants bring items for you to see, so that you might pick up some tricks next time that you may want to copy. I observed some attendees who viewed the models without casting a vote.

Please, everyone should view the entries and vote. A large number of votes might encourage more members to bring models.

Be sure to see the new animated ballot box. Just put your vote into the slot marked with the flashing lights.

Oh, by the way, the winner was number two from Bill Howard. Bill will receive a certificate and voucher for a year of meeting entrance fees.

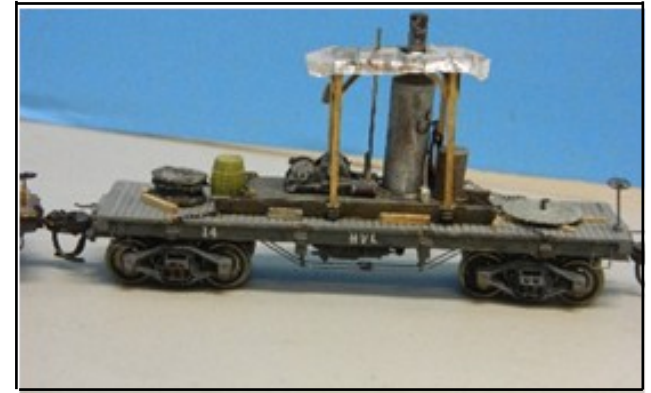
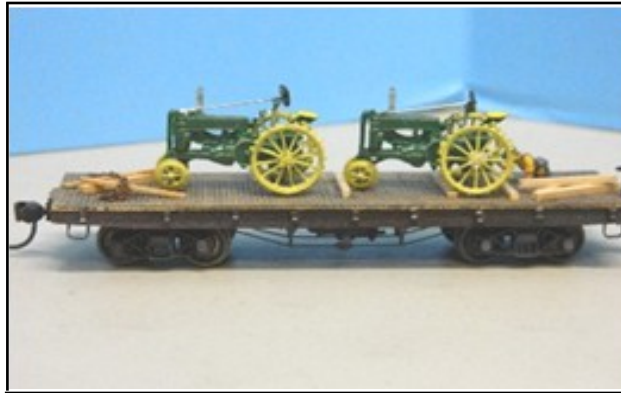
The next meet will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Forked River NJ, and the contest will be for Cabins (not log) / Caboose or Cabeese (many caboose).

All ideas for future contest categories are welcome. Please let me know your thoughts.

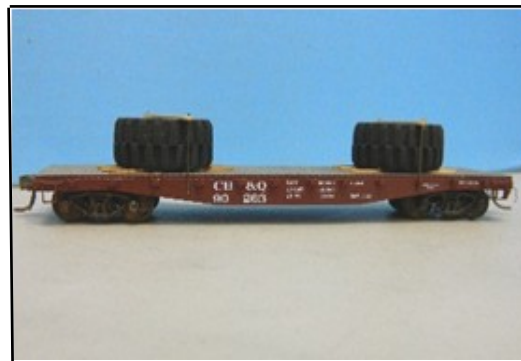


**Bill Howard's  
 winning entry,  
 was a depressed  
 center flatcar**





Frank Neufeld's entries were two Flats; one with Farm Tractors and the other with a Vertical Boiler.



Tom Lavin's 44 Ton switcher  
on a 4 truck flat car

Ron Baile's Earth Mover Wheels  
Flat car Load

Mike Prokop's model is a large  
Atomic Bomb Load

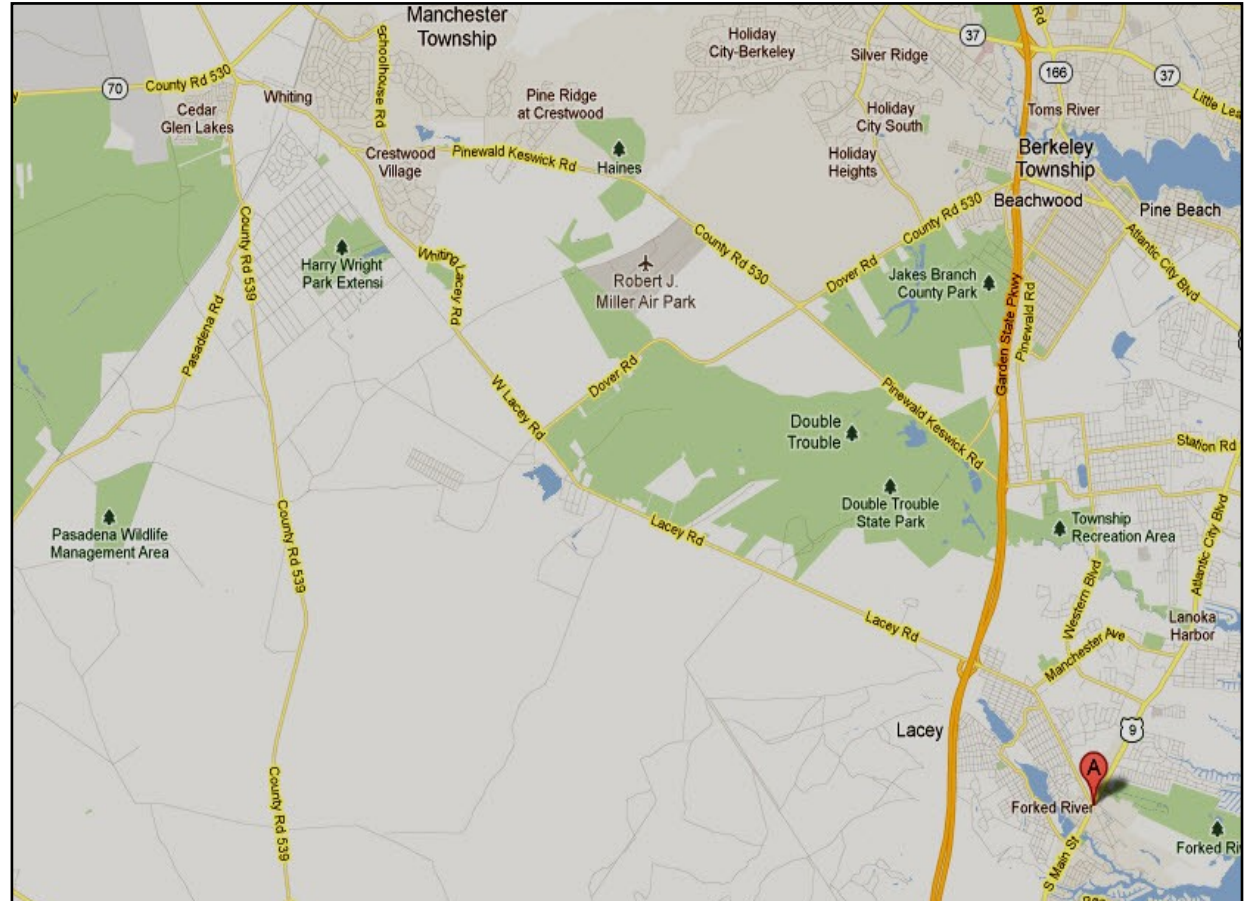
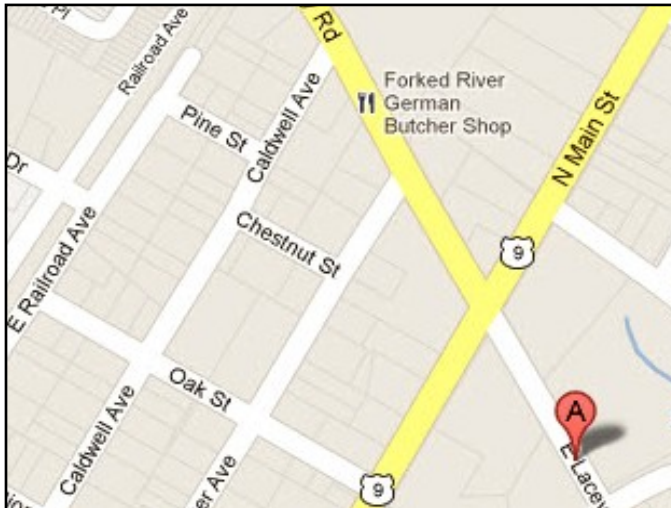
## Directions to the November Meet

### From Trenton area:

I-195 east to the Garden State Parkway South, To Exit 74 and turn right on Lacey Road. Follow to the meet location on the right after crossing Rt 9.

### From Philadelphia, Wilmington, and western South Jersey:

Take I-295 north to I-195 east and follow the directions above.



### From southern New Jersey:

Garden State Parkway North, Exit at 74 and turn right on Lacey Road. Follow to the meet location on the right after crossing Rt. 9.

### Alternate route from southern New Jersey:

Take NJ70 east to County 539 Turn right, then at first traffic light keep left onto County 530. County 530 becomes Lacey Road. At the fourth traffic light, stay right at the fork in the road to stay on Lacey Road. Follow to the meet location on the right after crossing Rt. 9.

## Door Prizes and Raffle

**Mike Prokop**

This meet we will have our usual fantastic door prizes. All you have to do is show up and be lucky! There is a great variety of items to win in multiple scales as well as tools and other railroad related items to choose from. Make sure you get your ticket when you check in and then peruse all the neat items for winning at the Division bookstore tables.

Auction? Yes, we will try something different this get together instead of our usual raffle. Some of the neat items that the NJ Division received from recent donations will be auctioned off during the meet. Details about the auction and the items offered will be announced at the beginning of the meeting.




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## Special Free-Mo Module Clinic Day

December 15, 2017-10am to 2pm,  
 13 Crosswicks St. (Old City Hall)  
 Bordentown, NJ 08505

If you are planning to attend this Clinic Day please contact Bill Grosse to be added to the list. We need to get a count to be sure there is room for everyone interested. This is a free clinic and you may also visit the rest of the Holiday Train Show afterward.

**Contact Information**  
 w.grosse.jr@optimum.net or 609-532-3431



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Prize Drawing

**Mike Prokop**

We will be having a 50th Anniversary Special Grand prize drawing at the division meet in May, 2018. This coincides with our 50th anniversary celebration of the New Jersey Division. Tickets will be sold through out the next four Division meets.

The winners will be drawn at the May meet and you do not have to be present to win. So far we have at least four really nice quality items for prizes and will probably add more. Some of these were on display at the last meet.

A limited number of tickets will be sold, only 400 in total. Tickets will be sold at the Division Bookstore and will be \$2 for one ticket and three tickets for \$5 . More details will follow at the meet.




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## ner convention



**Mahwah, New Jersey**  
**September 13-16, 2018**  
**ErieLimited.org**

Address Label



## Second Section

Layouts open for viewing this meet



Hell Gate Bridge and 3-rail action on the layout of Don Seiser



Joe Weisbrod's layout features some beautiful must see bridges.



Don has his track gang working hard.  
Lunch at the twin arches awaits.



The Tropicana facility on Joe Weisbrod's layout is always busy.





Thom Radice shows us Atlanta, GA in the civil war era.



Long sweeping curves give Ray Russell's layout a prototypical feel that is second to none.



Beautiful backdrop work on the layout of Thom Radice adds great depth.



Ray Russell's double track helix is just one of many features on his extensive N&W layout.





Truck traffic brings business to the railroad the layout of Walt Kohler.



Dave Albertson had his newly completed and very detailed tower at the recent MER convention. Come see it in person during the layout tour.

## 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 scratch building and super detailing. 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 scratch built, 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 scratch built, craftsman kits or super detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.