

Train Orders

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



September 2023 Volume 34 Number 1

The September Meet John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

WELCOME BACK! Our first meet for the fall will be September 9, 2023 at the Lacey United Methodist Church. The church address is in the "Next Division Meet" column. We last met there in September 2021. The meet entrance is the ramp to the basement. Doors open about 8:30 AM with signin attendance. Since this is the first meet of our year [September thru August], the Paymaster will collect the annual meet fee which covers all meets for the year. Please check to be sure your national membership dues are paid and up to date. For further explanation on the meet fee, please see Tom Neukirchen's article on page 6

Our program includes announcements, introductions of new members and visitors, and a clinic by Ralph Deblasi titled: **How to Build a Fine Scale Miniatures Kit – Without the Kit, Part 1**. We will take a break for coffee/donuts, socializing, inspection of the door prizes, swap tables, raffle table, take-it table, voting on models, and the bookstore.

We reconvene for the Annual Business Meeting, the director election results, and the election of the division officers. After adjournment, there is an hour for lunch and there will be five excellent layouts open for member visits from 1 p.m to 4 p.m.

Take time to thank your layout hosts for this opportunity to see their model railroading skills.

Be sure to wear your NJ Division name tag. See you there and thanks for your membership and participation.

No one can do everything but everyone can do something. Please Volunteer



Jack Menaker photo

Joe Walters's scratch built 500 ton Crane was the Winner of the Model Display voteat the August Meet.

Next Division Meet

Saturday Sept 9 2023 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon Lacey United Methodist Church 203 Lacey Road, Forked River, NJ 06873

Model Display News: Caboose, Cabin, ...Van for Display

Clinics:

Ralph Deblasi How to Build a Fine Scale Miniatures Kit-Without the Kit. Part 1

For Table Reservations contact John Gallagher at 856 228-2239 njdiv.super@gmail.com

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Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division. NMRA P.O. Box 276

Crosswicks. NI 08515-0276

https://njdivnmra.org

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, NI 08610-1334. Please include return postage

if you would like materials returned. Deadline for submittal to the next issue: October 18th

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

NJD Information Page

September Division Meet Saturday, September 9, 2023

Lacey United Methodist Church 203 Lacey Road Forked River, NJ 08673

Next Board Meeting

Date and Location TBD Please let us know if you plan to attend njdiv.super@gmail.com

November Division Meet

Saturday, November 2023 Date and Location to be determined

NJ Division Sponsored 2025 Mid-Eastern Region Convention **HELP WANTED!**

Committee Chairpersons: Workers. Contact John Gallagher at 856 228-2239 or njdiv.super@gmail.com

Five hotels have been contacted and provided with our Request for Proposal (RFP). Four have responded to date. Their proposals are being reviewed by the division and by the region for suitability and cost.

The board is requesting ideas from the membership for a theme and title for your convention.

Convention continued on page 7

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.thetrainroomNI.com e-mail thetrainroomni@msn.com

Yankee Dabbler - Track 33

101 W. Kings Hwy, Bellmawr, NJ 08031

* 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**

View From the Cab John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

Meet Location Volunteer

Thank to Joe Weisbrod for finding a facility for this September meet. Joe searched for possible venues for holding a meet in the Forked River area and sent me contact information. He also recruited the five layout owners who will be open during the afternoon of the meet.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the New Jersey Division is important because we report the results of the election of directors and the elected directors elect the officers of the division. This year, the elected officers are Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Paymaster. The Secretary was elected last year and continues in office. We also review the past year of accomplishments and events. A short period of open discussion allows members to comment on the Division's year.

Achievement Program

Glyn Thomas, MMR, was nominated to serve as Chairperson of the AP program of the New Jersey Division. The Mid-Eastern Region approved the nomination and Glyn assumed the position this summer. He replaces P.J. Mattson, MMR who passed away earlier this year. Glyn regularly gives clinics to the division on his broad background in model railroading with excellence. The Division has a team of AP judges who Glyn will manage with assignments and will educate NJ Division members about AP participations and will communicate through articles in Train Orders. to serve.

The August 5th Special Meet

thanks go to Assistant Many Superintendent Mike Prokop for the exceptional effort he made this spring and summer originating the concept of the special extra meet held at Switlik Park. The event's attendance of about 70 from our Division and other divisions showed the success of the program, clinics, a guest speaker, lunch and excellent layouts for visits, a day well spent in the middle of the summer. Mike gives a report elsewhere in this issue of the TO.

Volunteers Needed!

We need you. Can you put aside some time to do one or more of the following. I know all are busy with life's challenges and duties but please consider helping us.

Coffee and Donuts Chairperson and

Counter workers

AP Judges

Meet setup and Takedown workers

and leader

Meet technology setup and takedown

workers and leader

Clinicians

Train Orders authors, articles and photos

General volunteers on-call

2025 MER Convention volunteers

Division photographer

Service in these positions can earn volunteer credits toward the Association Volunteer Achievement Award.

Thank you!

Your continuing membership in the NMRA and New Jersey Division supports our efforts to make our Division work. Please renew your membership when due.

Thank you for attending Division meets when possible, with all of life's needs for your time. Each day, do a little modeling, even if it is to run a train on the layout or paint a figure... It all adds up. To the layout owners for opening their homes and clubs for member visits.

To the clinicians who presented this past year, September 2022 to August 2023.

To the New Jersey Division judges for service to our AP Program. To my fellow Directors, for your support, energy, guidance, encouragement, solving problems, wisdom, task completion with quality, and friendship.

Mike Prokop, Assistant Superintendent

Tom Neukirchen, Paymaster

Joe Zebrowski, Clerk

Fritz Plenefisch, Editor, Train Orders

Geert Marien, Member Recruitment and Retention

Jack Menaker, Model Displays Chairperson

Thom Radice, 2025 Convention Team.



Model Display News By Jack Menaker, Model Display Chairman

On Saturday August 5, 2023, we held our first summer Meet at Switlik Park in Hamilton N.J.

A big thank you to all NMRA Members who attended. In addition to our NJ Division members, we also hosted members from the Garden State Division and the Philadelphia Division. I believe from the feedback from the attendees, the Meet was a success!

There were some very nice entries to the contest and the winner was Joe Walters (the Superintendent) from the Philadelphia Division. He won a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Yankee Dabbler -Track 33 for his scratch built 500-ton crane. Great work Joe and thanks to all who participated in the contest.

In addition to the contest, we also had a display table for members to show off some of their work.

Moving on to the next Meet and Model Contest/Display, call it what you may, but some names are caboose, cabin, crummy, hack, buggy and van. That's right, the contest is for the car that was at the end of a freight train. It came in many colors with red being the favorite!

Bring your entry and the winner (based on a legitimate vote) will earn a certificate as the winner and a pass worth \$10.00 towards your yearly fee.



Jack Menaker All photos

Joe Walters's scratch built 500 ton Crane was the Winner of the Model Display vote



Joe Walters's
Union Pacific Rotary Snowplow
Joe Walters's Union Pacific Rotary Snowplow



Jimmy Sheppard's Diorama Presentation at the August Meet.





Two Narrow Gauge Wooden Gondolas

Hill Valley Railroad Update-Part 3 by Mike Prokop

We'll, the calendar has progressed enough to provide an update on the progress of my new model railroad the Hill Valley. My previous update last May stated that only a small portion of the old New Jersey and Western still stood. That section, Wallington, has been removed and the walls it was attached to have been repaired. What a task! I didn't realize how strong and well-constructed I had built it thirty something years ago. It took some effort and perseverance, but I was able to disassemble it over some time. Some track, actually rail, was salvaged along with certain benchwork materials for use on the new railroad. So, now a few of the old bookshelves and display cases have been relocated to Wallington, (I can't but help calling or referring to parts of the basement by the station or town names that previously held those locations), plus a wall mounted big TV to further enhance the crew lounge area was added.

Although my time wasn't all spent doing tedious renovations. I did indulge in some real model railroad activities as well as spackling and painting drywall. I completed laying the track in Winston Yards, which is a small yard by design but should be very functional for operations. All the track is hand laid and the turnouts are converted Atlas code 83 HO ones to On30. Not a bad way to reuse and recycle track components from the old NJ&W. The attached photo shows a view from the east end of the yard. It consists of three stub end classification tracks, an arrival/departure track,

and a yard by-pass track. Adjacent to Winston Yards is the main line and a passing siding. A small two track engine service area with a converted Walters HO turntable is planned for the vard area. Winston Yards will be the backbone area for supporting operations on the rest of the layout. Shown in the photo above Winston Yards, is the under construction upper portion of the Hill Valley RR. This will be the only part of the layout that is double decked and will actually have a switchback to access that level. Kinda the "Hill" part of the Hill Valley RR. More updates in the next newsletter and I'm hoping to be open for a home visit at the next NJ Division meet in March of 2024 for anyone who would like to visit the HVRR in person.





Ron Baile's scratch built Transfer Caboose.



8 axle Depressed Center Flat Car.



Bob Duffield's Half Boxcar Diorama

Clinics for September John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics

Clinics for the September 9, 2023 Meet

Due to the business and general membership meeting, we have only one clinic.

Ralph Deblasi will present: How to Build a Fine Scale Miniatures Kit – Without the Kit, Part 1. That title may sound familiar to you and you are correct if you attended the joint meet with the Garden State Division in May in north Jersey.

Ralph's PowerPoint file could not be read by the GSD's Mac computer. Therefore, Ralph did his best to describe his clinic without visuals. Unfortunately, I was not notified of the problem until Ralph stood up before the attendees and described the problem. If I had known of the issue of a PC file in a Mac computer, I could have brought in our Division's PC computer and all would have been well.

Ralph contacted me and asked if he could present his clinic to our Division with our PC and I agreed. So, we will get the proper informative clinic on September 9th. Thank you, Ralph.

Attention: My clinics clipboard is EMPTY! Help!

I will pass around the clipboard for members to sign up for future meetings. Please think about a topic you can describe. It could be about a modeling project you did, an operations technique, wiring decoders, sound systems, track, rolling stock, scenery, backdrops, loco drives, prototype, or, if you are not sure, ask me.

Come with some ideas and sign up. I have nothing for November's meet.

The Importance of the Annual Activity Fee Thomas Neukirchen Paymaster, NJ Division

The New Jersey Division incurs continuing operating expenses. The NMRA national gives each division a funding of two dollars per member each year. That means we get about \$400 each year for our membership of about 200. We must generate additional funds to cover our costs. NMRA **prohibits** divisions charging dues. You pay membership dues to NMRA national.

What costs do we incur? They include outside costs such as bank fees, software annual fees, and facility rental and insurance fees for many of our meets. Since we returned to in person meets, we continually search for facilities in the various geographic

areas where members live. Many members attended meets in schools, churches, halls owned by organizations, fire department halls, and township recreation facilities in pre COVID days. In some cases, we fortunately used public facilities for free because a member resident of that township reserved it. We consistently search for such opportunities but they are rare. Some public facilities charge rent. Others require insurance coverage. Churches generally ask a fee of \$150 to \$200. If they require insurance, that is an additional \$100.

Thus, in order to keep the Division functioning, it is very important that, as part

of the fund raising to keep the bank account solvent, you pay the Activity Fee when you attend a meet in person. We also raise funds through the active participation of the meet raffles.

The Activity Fee is an annual fee starting September 1 through August 31 of the following year. This is consistent with the New Jersey Division Charter fiscal year. Please, when you come to the meet, make sure that your annual Activity Fee is current and paid. It is \$10 per year for all the meets.

Thank you for your support.



NJ DIVISION 1 HISTORY

Bill Birchall

It all started with a question: "What's a Railette?" The question was asked of Gene Colborn, Eastern VP of the NMRA who lived in a neighboring town. His answer: "If you're married, you have one!"

I had been given NMRA membership as a Christmas present in 1965 and that question led to a friendship with Gene that lasted until his death in 1992. During 1966, we attended the national convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Having seen NER's Garden State and Sunrise Trail Divisions in operation, the next question was: why did our Mid-Eastern Region not have divisions?

At that time, there was a small group of NMRA members in Burlington County, NJ that met in each other's homes, including Gene Colborn and John Johnson and Bill Birchall. The concept of having divisions in the Mid-Eastern Region was presented to the region board by this group and, at the November 1966 MER Board of Directors meeting the ground rules were established for the formation of divisions. They included the tentative boundary as the MER portion of New Jersey. A major discussion related to the issue of requiring NMRA/MER membership for division members. Bill and Gene argued, successfully, that a division should be the recruiting point to introduce potential members to the NMRA. The Board did require that division officers be NMRA/MER members since they would serve on the region advisory board. Of course,

changes in NMRA insurance and security have affected the membership process.

On September 30, at the 1967 MER fall convention in Wilmington, Delaware, Bill announced the intent to form a division in New Jersey. Shortly after that, we contacted MER Office Manager, Clyde Gerald, to get a list of all NMRA members living in the MER portion of New Jersey. There were over 170 NMRA members. The first written notice appeared in the September-October 1967 issue of the <u>Local</u>, listing Bill as the contact person.

Gene and Louise Colborn, John and Brenda Johnson and Bill and Esther Birchall prepared the announcement, which was mailed to these members, inviting them to attend an organizational meeting on December 2, 1967 at the Cherry Hill Community Center. Twenty-three members attended this meeting and signed a petition to be presented to the region board to create the New Jersey Division. The constitution of the Garden State Division, NER was reviewed and rewritten to read MER and New Jersey Division. Gene, Bill, John and Harold Conway were the first Board of Directors.

While waiting for MER approval, the group held a joint meet with NER's Garden State division on January 20, 1968, in Camden.

At the February 25, 1968 meeting of the MER Board, the New Jersey Division was formally chartered as MER's first division.

On April 27, 1968, the final organizational

meeting was held with Bill Birchall being elected as the first Division Superintendent. A tour of local layouts began a tradition that still continues.

The following month, MER President, John Dorsam presented the charter to Gene Colborn, representing the Division on May 18, 1968 at the MER spring convention in Hampton, VA.

In the early years of the division our anniversary celebrations were based on the feeling that December, 1967 was when the division was formed. Later on, it was decided to recognize the charter date as our anniversary date.

Convention Continued from page 2

The specific dates are the third week in October, 2025 for a Thursday thru Sunday convention. We need many volunteers to work various duties before and during the convention, also arranging and coordinating activities along with transportation for tours that may be set up. It's two years away but not too early to sign up to help your division present a successful convention.

Your board can't do it alone; we are all volunteers and need your help. Remember that time spent in volunteer work earns credits towards the AP Volunteer Certificate.

New Jersey Division Special Summer Meet

By Mike Prokop

On August 5th the New Jersey Division held their first ever summer meet. Dubbed the "Special Summer Meet." Many members from the NJD attended along with our special invited guests from the Philadelphia Division and the Garden State Division. All in all, we had 71 attendees which also included one member of the Susquehanna Division. Coffee and donuts in the morning were products of Duncan Donuts and provided some early morning fuel to get things going.

The first clinic was presented by Eric Hansmann on the Wheeling B&O Freight Terminal, a well presented and very interesting clinic. Following after Eric was Jimmy Shepard with his clinic on building a diorama from a factory structure kit, nicely executed and a beautiful model. Some activities enjoyed by everyone in between clinics was participating in and voting for an entry in the popular vote contest. As long as you had a hand in building it, either a kit, scratch built or kit bash, you could enter it into the contest. The competition was tough but was eventually decided in favor of Joe Walters from the Philly Division for his beautifully scratch built railroad crane model. This netted Joe the grand prize of a \$25 gift certificate from Yankee Dabbler hobby shop.

Other break activities happening between clinics included the Model Showcase of which Ron Baile highlighted his scratch-built Penn Central cabin car and later in the day, Bob Duffield showed off his kit-bashed door and a half boxcar that he built from a specialty kit.

Lunch was served right on time consisting of a \$2 hoagie which included a soda and bag of chips, of which mostly everyone participating in the meet took part. After lunch we heard from Tom Neukirchen about the construction of his garden railroad, some do's and don'ts and successes he's achieved.

After a brief intermission, our distinguished guest speaker, John Kilbride, gave his talk on the Camden and Amboy Railroad. John presented many historical photos and entertained us with his sharp sense of humor and interesting comments about the railroad in great detail. John had an extensive handout for those interested in learning more about the C&A.

The meet concluded with our door prize drawing and of course the moment all we're waiting for, the 50-50 drawing. A very nice prize of \$128 was handed to the winner!

Of course, many thanks to the folks helping to clean up the gathering place and get things back in order. Remaining hoagies and sodas were sold off at discount prices and many people headed off to visit our three open layouts available that late afternoon. Many thanks to Rick and Linda Spano, Jimmy Shepard, and Tom Neukirchen for having their layouts open.

Again, many thanks to all that lent a helping hand during the meet and all the board members who pitched in to make the first summer meet of the New Jersey Division a great success. Thank you all.

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent Presented Certificates for participating In the August Meet.



Eric Hansmann on modeling the B&O Freight Terminal in Wheeling, WV



Tom Neukirchen about construction of his garden railroad.



Jimmy Shepard for his clinic on building a diorama



John Kilbride, gave a talk on the history of the Camden & Amboy RR

50th Anniversary Gondola

A review of the cars. They are \$35 each, or a set of two for \$65. Car numbers are 1968 and 2018, which was the year that the New Jersey Division was founded and the year we celebrated our 50th anniversary. The model is from Tangent Models and is a superb model of a 52'6" Riveted Drop End Gondola with 70 ton trucks. The placement of the brake wheel on the side is an identifying feature of a drop end Gondola. They're ready to run and come with Kadee couplers.

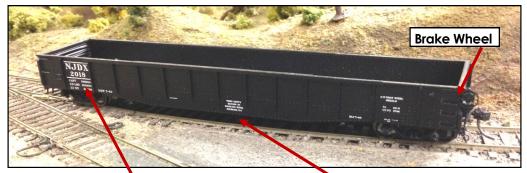
We acquired equal amounts of the two car numbers. Cash or check will consummate the deal and you'll be hauling stuff around your layout in no time!

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

To order cars Contact Mike Prokop at njwrr@aol.com or by mail use the Order Sheet. USPS Priority Mail postage is: \$9 for one car and \$10.75 for two cars.

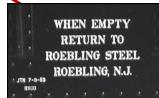
The car body is black with white lettering and data conforming to the 1950s

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





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 Roebling Steel. It must be returned to Roebling after its load has been delivered.

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip Code	
Telephone			

See Tangent website for more information support @tangentscalemodels.com Return this form to NJ Division NMRA; PO Box 276, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276

Second Section Layouts open for viewing at the September Meet

For September we have five layouts to visit at the time this TO is issued.

Maps listing them along with directions and the time they will be open are available at the meet.

Please contact a Board member if you would like to host an open house for your railroad when we are close to your area.





Layout name is A & W, Free lanced. It goes from Hoboken to Phillipsburg NJ. It's freight only and makes deliveries in Clifton, Dover, Netcong, Oxford, and Phillipsburg. There are 8 locations in each city to drop-off loads such ascoal, fuel, warehouses, etc.

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New York and Long Branch set in the late 1950's. Trains run from South Amboy to Bay Head. The layout has been in work for 23 years. Most structures are built from scratch. The building plans were reverse engineered from Photographs or scaled form Sanborn fire Insurance Maps.

The layout is Digitraxx DCC controlled. Operating sessions are held periodically for 3 operators and two brakemen.

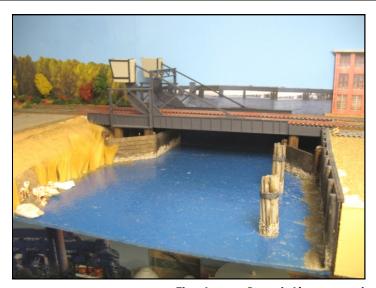




This is the N & W Pocahontas Division Circa 1950. The layout is a multi deck double track mainline. It runs from Williamson east to Flat Top Yard.

There is staging on both end. We run Digitrax DCC. It has been built using spline and Plywood with Homasote for the yards. It's All Steam!

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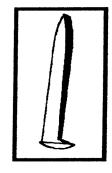
The Jersey Beach Line operates between South Amboy and Bay Head, NJ It includes many scenes along the prototype New York & Long Branch including new Industries.





Ocean County Model Railroad is a multi scale operation consisting of HO and O Scale layouts.

The layouts and models cover a wide era of time in railroad industry.



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS AP	PLICATION FORM AND SEND	PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR
Member's Name	NN	NMRA#: EXP:
Address:		City:
State/Prov:	Country:	Postal Code:
Date Submitted:	Region:	
The Golden Spike Awarc Qualifications Checklist, ol will be administered by the apply for scratchbuilding a the following checklist, obt designated by the division regional AP Chair who will	The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA mem Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. A apply for scratchbuilding and superdetailing. To qualify for the awa the following checklist, obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chadesignated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will su regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.	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:	HECKLIST:	
1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):	Oower & Cars):	
Display six units of rollii	ng stock either scratchbuilt, c	Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or super-detailed commercial kits.
2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)	(Structures & Scenery)	
Construct a minimum of Construct five structures module has less than five	a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery. five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdet s less than five structures, additional structures separate fron	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)	lectrical)	
Three types of trackage required ballasted and installed on proper All installed trackage must be progreg. G.g. double track main, single tracking Provide one additional electrical indication, lighted buildings, etc.	es of trackage required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All n and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used ted trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operate le track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command ne additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, sign ighted buildings, etc.	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: