



## The NMRA is People...

The NMRA is you and your fellow modelers, sharing and learning all the fascinating aspects of model railroading. Organized into regions which are sub-divided into divisions, the NMRA offers you a extensive network of activities and opportunities to participate with fellow enthusiasts in planned meetings, clinics, conventions, fan trips and other social activities. Increased knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby are a direct benefit of membership.

## The NMRA is Fun...

Most NMRA Divisions hold monthly meetings featuring interesting and informative clinics and programs. Semi-annual regional conventions are staged throughout the world and each summer the NMRA national convention brings together upwards of 2500 modelers for a week of clinics, contests, layout tours, prototype excursions, a train show and dozens of other exciting activities. Fun for the whole FAMILY.

## The NMRA is Member Services...

NMRA membership entitles you to receive a multitude of services all targeted towards expanding your hobby enjoyment as well as the value of your hobby dollar. Every month the NMRA Bulletin will update you on member activities and the latest prototype and hobby news. In addition, tape-slide clinics, data and standards sheets, periodical indexes and dozens of other services and materials are available to NMRA members exclusively. More exciting developments are always underway as we continually strive to improve member benefits. In truth, your NMRA membership will actually increase in value over time!

## The NMRA is Engineering...

When the NMRA was founded in 1935, model railroading was in its infancy. Individual manufacturers produced materials according to their own theories and with virtually no regard for interchangeability. The NMRA was the organization that established Standards and Recommended Practices which the hobby industry readily adopted. That early effort by the NMRA has given all of us the satisfaction and enjoyment which today's reliable equipment



provides. But the story does not stop there. The hobbies' newest development is Digital Command Control (DCC). The NMRA is at the forefront of Standards and Recommended Practices development for this exciting technology. Manufacturers who adhere to these standards are producing DCC receivers that will interface with equipment across the industry, thus giving modelers broader and more competitive choices for DCC equipment.

Not every modeler has the time or space to build a large home layout. But what if they want to operate long trains with friends? The answer is MODULES! The NMRA has been instrumental in developing module standards for ALL SCALES. These standards allow you to build a module that will interconnect with other modules at group meetings and shows.

Interested in LARGE SCALE TRAINS but can't understand why they all operate on the same track, but are different sizes? Actually they're different scales. The NMRA is working with large scale train manufacturers to develop better product labeling for the benefit of consumers interested in this area of the hobby.

## The NMRA is The A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library...

The A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library is the NMRA's internationally recognized reference and research center. Since its founding in 1986, the library has answered thousands of questions about model and prototype railroading, questions you may have had at one

time or another: questions about color schemes, car numbers, scale drawings, how-to articles in modeling magazines, you name it!

Library resources are impressive: over 3500 books, hundreds of videotapes, and over 50,000 photographs, slides, and negatives, all preserved in an archival environment. The business records, photographs, and catalogs of the Porter Locomotive Works; the Walther's Collection of model railroad manufacturer catalogs, price lists and kit instructions; and the Official Railway Equipment Registers - which help modelers and historians with the numbers and dimensions of historic and contemporary rolling stock - are just a few of the many fascinating collections owned by the library.

## NMRA Membership benefits include a wide variety of library services and products:

- Answers to your questions, including print-outs from our periodical database
- Referrals to other library collections
- Research services at discount cost
- Photocopies of out-of-print magazines & books
- Special prices on other library services, such as photo reproductions from the Library's collection, as well as discounts on surplus books and magazines
- Discounts on Library publications, such as photo catalogs and the Symposium on Railroad History books. (Look for the library's new series of pictorial books, based on photographs held by the library)

Whether you're researching the history of a small shortline, need the color schemes of a railroad's passenger cars, want the boiler diameter of a steam locomotive you're modeling, or just want to borrow a videotape from the library's lending collection of model railroad clinics - whatever your needs - library services are here for you! You can write the library at the NMRA's National Headquarters, reach us by phone: 423-894-8144, or fax: 423-899-4869, or visit our web site at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). For more information, ask for the library's brochure: The Kalmbach Memorial Library: What's In It For You?

## The NMRA is the Achievement Program...

The NMRA's Achievement Program, or AP for short, is designed to give recognition to those members, who have displayed a high degree of modeling skill and service to the hobby and to the NMRA. While participation is strictly voluntary, all NMRA members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the AP.

Briefly, the AP allows you to earn certificates for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of the hobby. Eligible projects include various types of models, scenery, trackwork, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby, your local division and the NMRA.

You can start by earning a "Golden Spike Award" for your layout. Anyone who is getting started can earn this award with just the very basic components of track, rolling stock and structures. Then you can move on to receiving "Merit Awards", which you can earn as your modeling skills advance. With enough Merit Awards you can achieve the ultimate recognition of "Master ModelRailroader."

If you participate in the AP all the way to MMR status, you will have built a model railroad that you will be proud of, that you and your friends will enjoy and you will have become master of many model railroading skills.

## The NMRA is Conventions...

Every summer the NMRA hosts a national convention. These conventions are the premier gathering place of modelers from around the world and offer educational seminars by recognized experts in the hobby. You have a chance to compete in contests with the best model railroaders in the world. You can visit top-notch layouts and area railroad attractions, auctions, quality general interest seminars and local sightseeing.

You'll also have an opportunity to visit the National Train Show, which is the largest train show in the country with over 150,000 square feet of exhibits. This annual train show attracts quality manufacturers and dealers from around the world and frequently draws record crowds.