



BULLETIN

November/December 2014

Next Stop: PDX 2015



The Portland Daylight Express Convention, to be held August 23 - 29, 2015, is our next National Convention. This is the 80th NMRA

National Convention and a perfect opportunity for members who may not have participated in the largest annual get-together of NMRA members to experience this unique event.

Planning has been underway since our successful bid at the NMRA Board meeting at Sacramento in 2011. Through promotions at recent National and Regional conventions, we've been building registrations and already have quite a few registrants from the far side of both the Pacific and Atlantic. We're also pleased with the number of family registrations to date - many visitors are planning to make an extended visit to experience the Pacific Northwest as well as the convention.

We're always on the lookout for new clinics and clinicians. If you have a topic which has been successfully presented at your club or division meet, please consider offering it for a wider audience.

The successful Cleveland convention last year had two innovations which we plan to adopt. One was a smartphone app that let attendees to see the latest convention timetable. Many attendees used the phone rather than the printed timetable while checking the next clinic session or other activity.

The other was the opportunity to pre-register silent auction items online. At Cleveland, 79 participants registered 1100 items in advance, significantly reducing

A few words from the President



Merry Kringle

It is traditional this time of year to wish our friends and family "Happy Holidays" to cover Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa and any other winter holidays I may have overlooked. So please do accept my most sincere wishes for this holiday season as you are all

friends and all part of the NMRA family. So as not to take sides, I wish you all a Merry Kringle, in honor of Kris Kringle.

And it is fitting to celebrate model trains this time of year as the public, for better or worse, associates the holidays with model trains. Blame Lionel's brilliant marketing or that model locomotive sticking out of Santa's sack in vintage ads, but Christmas used to mean toy trains as gifts for children. Given our collective average age, I'll bet many of you received a train set for Christmas in your youth. Isn't it wonderful that our brothers and sisters in the Toy Train collectors hobby are still ensuring a Lionel Christmas is possible?

Now it is Christmas 2014, which seems amazingly unreal, yet trains are still a part of our holiday season and every day in between. Our biggest challenge remains rekindling that passion the public once felt for trains and reminding them of how much fun trains were and continue to be. We should all be selling the hobby of model railroading not necessarily the NMRA. (Ed. note: see the "Tips" story in this issue.)

Heresy?? Perhaps. And I do not suggest ignoring the NMRA or not promoting it. But we need more hobbyists first and memberships will follow. As I have said previously, no other hobby offers the breadth of or opportunities that model railroading does.

That is the message we need to convey, and train shows are the best place to do so. Most train shows consist of vendors with new or used products and modular layouts in a variety of scales. All are very helpful in demonstrating what this hobby has to offer. But why not a NMRA table offering basic advice on how to get started in the hobby or even what the hobby is all about? We have a wonderful story to tell. And we have an obligation to share that story with those expressing an interest in the hobby. We all are Ambassadors of Model Railroading. Promoting the hobby ensures the hobby continues.

It is after all, up to us to spread the word.

processing time on the day. Our Auction chair, is planning similar for PDX 2015.

Check out our website at www.nmra2015portland.org. Registrations are open!

Education Department News

[Bruce De Young, Department Manager](#)

As we discuss the various programs within the Education Department, I want to devote this column to the Modeling with the Masters Program (MWTM). Clinics of all types and at all levels (Division, Region, and National) are at the core of our educational efforts, and the MWTM Program is our "flagship offering."

The program is coordinated by Clark Kooning, MMR, assisted by Fred Headon, MMR, and Peter Youngblood, MMR, and lets NMRA members attend a hands-on clinic with modelers who've earned their Master Model Railroader (MMR) through the NMRA's Achievement Program. These hands-on 'Make and Take' clinics are offered at NMRA National Conventions and at various Regional Conventions throughout the year. Regions who'd like to have a MWTM Program at their Regional Convention should contact Clark at mwtm@nmra.org.

I had the opportunity to observe the program in Cleveland last July. It was obvious that the participants were making the most of their opportunity and asking modeling questions of these MMRs.



Notice of the BOD Winter Meeting, 2015

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will be held in Scottsdale, AZ. on February 20, 21, and 22 at the Chaparral Suites. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 20, and the Board will be in caucus that evening (Board and invited guests only). The regular BOD meeting begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 21. Because the agenda is not yet set, there is no way to tell if the meeting will continue on Sunday. All members are invited to attend the open sessions. Watch www.nmra.org for details.

The official slate of candidates for the NMRA 2015 election



[John Stevens, NMRA Secretary](#)

With nominations and petitioning now closed, the following is the official slate of candidates for the 2015 election:

President

Charlie Getz

Jack Hamilton (By-petition)

VP Administration

Clark Kooning

Dave Thornton

VP Special Projects

Gerry Leone

At Large North American Director

Bob Ferguson

Vincent Gallogly

Alan Saatkamp

Paul Voelker

Bob Weinheimer

Peter Youngblood

Eastern District Director

Joe Gelmini

Pacific District Director

Mike Bartlett

The photo gives you an idea of an MWTM classroom. Here Fred Headon is giving one-on-one attention to a participant. At the time, Peter and Clark were both doing the same. Learning to model with an MMR is like getting the opportunity to cook with a master chef or to have a golf lesson with a pro. Why not give it a try?

Two ideas to help get new members



Here are two innovative ideas that are easy to implement that just may help you get new members.

From Ken Mattern of the Mid-South Division: "When I returned from Cleveland I notified my superintendent that I would sponsor three RailPass memberships at our next mini-meet. At the following meeting I challenged all 12 members attending to sponsor at least one RailPass. To my pleasure the total number of sponsorships is now 17! I then challenged the members to be in direct and frequent contact with their sponsored members, to personally remind them of division meetings, invite them to visit their layouts and promote the hobby as much as reasonable."

From Al Hovey of Rio Grande Division 6: "At train shows, rather than wearing a badge or having a sign that says, 'Ask me about the NMRA,' we have badges that read, 'Ask me how to get started in model railroading.' Once we get them interested in the hobby, then we sell them on the benefits of the NMRA."

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Editor:

[Gerry Leone](#), MMR, HLM, and [Chuck Diljak](#)

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The NMRA eBulletin is an official bi-monthly production of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Publishing Department (Don Phillips, Manager). Its purpose is to keep every NMRA member informed about

Kelly Loyd

NMRA Secretary John Stevens reports that there will be a new ballot distribution system this year, and that the election process is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2015.

Bob DeWitt brass model collection donated to the National Model Railroad Association

(SODDY DAISY, TN) The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is pleased to announce the immediate donation of a sizeable portion of the Bob DeWitt Collection to its "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM). The Bob DeWitt model collection represents not only the motive power but entire trains of virtually all the major railroads in both the United States and Canada, and is one of the largest and most comprehensive model railroad collections in the world.

The portion of the collection donated to the NMRA at this time is valued at over \$250,000. It's Mr. DeWitt's intent that his entire collection be donated to the NMRA over a period of several years. Both he and his wife, Roxanne Christ, have requested that the collection be kept intact and preserved for future generations.

The NMRA hopes to immediately display this donation when its exhibit at the CSRM is completed, estimated to be within two to three years.

"This is a donation of unprecedented generosity," said Charlie Getz, president of the NMRA. "It will really make what was already going to be a spectacular display, a world class exhibit worthy of international note. The entire organization is truly overwhelmed."

Each of the locomotives in the collection is a brass import, super-detailed and professionally painted to represent specific railroad prototypes. The passenger and freight trains are equally appointed, and each is modeled to be part of a specific train as it ran during a specific year or era.

For more information, contact NMRA president Charlie Getz at pres@nmra.org

Board, Officers, and Department Heads Biographies are now on our Website

Did you know that one of our board members was a submarine commander? Or that one of our officers flies 737s?

Here's an opportunity for you to get to know your NMRA board, officers, and departments heads a little better. We've now added

organization news and events. If you know of an NMRA member who is not receiving this mailing, please direct them to [here](#) to update their email address. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, please don't mark them as SPAM. Instead, click the Safe Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this page. ©2014 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.

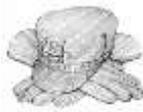
photos and short biographies to our website. Just click on "Organization & Structure" at the bottom of the homepage, or click [THIS LINK](#) then scroll down the page. Click on the person's name or the "Bio" link.

Region and National Conventions



[Aug 23-30: NMRA National Convention, Portland, OR](#)

Master Model Railroaders



542: Katherine Millatt
543: William Messecar
544: Gene Sing

545: James Dalberg
546: Joseph Norris
547: Steve Perry