



# The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

June 2012

## Next Division Meeting

**Tuesday, June 26, 2012**

St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery

830 High House Road

Cary, North Carolina

**6:30 PM – Board of Directors Meeting**

**7:00 PM – Membership Meeting**

### Popular Vote Contest

**Sponsored by Kim Parker of Train Buddy  
Hobby Shop**

**June – Steam Locomotives**

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Region of the NMRA

The Carolina Piedmont Herald is published monthly by the Carolina Piedmont Division, Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association. **Submissions:** Please send news items, inquiries and comments to the Editor of the Herald by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month:

**Jack Dziadul, Clerk and Editor**  
[dziadul@windstream.net](mailto:dziadul@windstream.net)

919-718-0368 - 919-721-8757 cell

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author of each article or the Editor of the Carolina Piedmont Herald and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Carolina Piedmont Division.

## Membership Barometer

Division Membership	132
<a href="http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/">http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/</a>	
Yahoo Group Members	94
<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/</a>	
Meeting Attendance 5/22/12	24 plus 1 guest

## June Program

Steam Locomotives

Kim Parker

## Financial Report

By Jerry Mersch, Paymaster

May 2012

Balance In Checking 4/30/12	\$7,737.76
<u>Income</u>	
MER Convention Volunteer Rebates	\$ 315.00
NMRA Per Capita Rebates	\$ 59.00
Total	\$ 374.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
MER Convention Volunteer Rebates	\$ 315.00
Bank Service Fee	\$ 2.00
Total	\$ 317.00
Balance In Checking 5/31/12	\$7,794.76

## Welcome New Members

Joseph Austin	Apex
Steve Breedlove	Morrisville
David Kent	Raleigh
Christopher Thompson	Morrisville
Richard Walz	Raleigh

## Board of Directors

*Superintendent (term ending January 2014)*

**Grif Bond**, Wake Forest, 919-556-7066  
[grifbond@embarqmail.com](mailto:grifbond@embarqmail.com)

*Assistant Superintendent (term January 2014)*

**Jim Murphy**, Cary, 919-460-7763  
[berkshireshort@yahoo.com](mailto:berkshireshort@yahoo.com)

*Division Clerk (term ending January 2014)*

**Jack Dziadul**, Sanford, 919-721-8757  
[dziadul@windstream.net](mailto:dziadul@windstream.net)

*Division Paymaster (term ending January 2014)*

**Jerry Mersch**, Cary, 919-815-3528  
[jbmswow@nc.rr.com](mailto:jbmswow@nc.rr.com)

*Director (term ending in January 2013)*

**Vic Bitleris**, Raleigh, 919-870-7558  
[vbitleris@nc.rr.com](mailto:vbitleris@nc.rr.com)

*Director (term ending in January 2014)*

**Rob Rousseau**, Holly Springs, 919-368-0586  
[railroad@nc.rr.com](mailto:railroad@nc.rr.com)

*Director (term ending in January 2015)*

**Steve Milley**, Garner, 248-421-6276  
[rsmilley@yahoo.com](mailto:rsmilley@yahoo.com)

## Coming Events

July 3-4, 2012

Norfolk Southern Heritage locomotives gather for "family portrait".  
 NC Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

July 7, 2012

"1776" Heritage unit on display  
 Virginia Museum of Transportation  
 Roanoke, VA

October 11-13, 2012

The Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo  
 Strasburg, PA  
[www.modelrailroadexpo.com](http://www.modelrailroadexpo.com)

### **NMRA National Conventions**

2012	7/29 - 8/4	Grand Rapids, MI
2013	7/14 - 7/20	Atlanta, GA
2014	7/13 - 7/20	Cleveland, OH
2015	8/23 - 8/30	Portland, OR

### **MER Convention Host Calendar**

2012 10/18 - 10/21 Milepost 40 Suffolk, VA  
<http://www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org/Convention/convention.html>  
 2013 Potomac / Chesapeake

*Editor's note - Before traveling any distance to an event listed, it is recommended you verify the event is still scheduled by checking the event's web site or calling the local contact.*

## Monthly Contests

June	Steam Locomotives
July	Any Wood Structure or Rolling Stock
August	Any Styrene Structure or Rolling Stock
March 2013	Coal Tower Diorama

## Program Topics

June	Steam Locomotives - <b>Kim Parker</b>
July	T-Trak North Raleigh Model Railroad Club
August	Operations - <b>Rob Westdyke</b>
December	Yankee Swap Gift Exchange

## Refreshment Hosts

June	<b>Dan Fisher</b>
July	<b>Grif Bond</b>
August	<b>Marc Blaustein</b>
September	your name goes here

## CPD Meeting Calendar

Tuesday night's monthly 2012  
 6:30 PM Board / 7:00 PM General Meeting

June 26	July 24	August 28
September 25	October 23	November 13
December 11		

## For Sale

Norfolk Southern 40' box cars HO scale.

The price is \$15 each and \$50 for a 4 car set to non-division members, \$12.50 each and \$40 for division members. There are about 70 left. To purchase see John Janosko or email [johnajan@embarqmail.com](mailto:johnajan@embarqmail.com).

## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

### **Getting Started in the Achievement Program**

Jack Burgess, MMR  
Pacific Coast Region AP Chairman

Maybe you have heard of the NMRA Achievement Program and are interested in getting more information about it. Or maybe you already have one or more certificates but need a little encouragement to keep you moving forward. Hopefully, this series of articles will provide that information.

Getting started in the Achievement Program can sometimes be confusing. However, a good first step is to begin by downloading the general requirements from the NMRA.org website for each of the Achievement Program categories. This will let you get an overview of the program and the basic requirements for each certificate. Note that there are eleven different AP categories and that a modeler must only meet the qualifications for seven certificates in order to achieve the goal of Master Model Railroader. Of the seven certificates, you must receive one from each of the following four categories:

- Railroad Equipment
  - Master Builder - Motive Power
  - Master Builder - Cars
- Railroad Scenery
  - Master Builder - Structures
  - Master Builder - Scenery
  - Master Builder - Prototype Models
- Railroad Construction and Operation
  - Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
  - Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
  - Chief Dispatcher
- Service to the Hobby and NMRA Member
  - Association Official
  - Association Volunteer
  - Model Railroad Author

If you have held an office at the National, Regional, or Divisional level, I'd suggest first looking at the requirements for *Association Official*; you may already qualify! If you haven't been an official but you have been a contest

judge or had your layout open for organized tours during a NMRA event, check the requirements for *Association Volunteer*. You might find that you need only to document your past efforts to get credit for these efforts.

Assuming that you have a layout, next take a close look at the requirements for *Model Railroad Engineer Civil* and *Master Builder - Scenery*. For example, if you are in HO scale, you need to only complete 32 square feet of scenery to meet the basic requirements for this certificate....that is the equivalent of a 4'x8' layout! The requirements for Civil are more varied but will be met by many typical layouts; one of the requirements is to construct a certain amount of track (50 linear feet in HO for example). The track must be complete with ballast, drainage facilities, roadbed profile, etc. The track must include at least six different features such as a passing track, spur, crossover, turntable, grade change, etc. Again, many layouts will easily meet this particular requirement.

Next, I'd suggest listing those certificates for which you think that you might already, at least partially, satisfy. For each AP certificate, jot down what you have already done and what still needs to be done to satisfy the requirements. Maybe you already have much more than 50 of prefab track completed on your layout and it has several spurs, a couple of sidings, and a turntable. In fact, you can count five different track features on the layout and you only need one more. You realize that you have been meaning to finish that crossover to avoid backing the passenger train into the station and now recognize that, if you moved it up on your "To Do" list, you'd complete the requirements for *Model Engineer - Civil*!

If you have entered any NMRA judged modeling contests in the past, dig out your old score sheets. If you received at least 87½ points for a model that you built, that model will count toward Master Builder certificates.

After completing this survey of your volunteer efforts, layout, and contest models, you may find that, while you haven't made progress toward the requirements for some of the AP

certificates, you may be actually very close for some others. I'd suggest then making a list of what you need to do to finish up one of the certificates that interests you. Use this list to prioritize your upcoming projects and before you know it, you will be completing the Statement of Qualifications or SOQ for your first AP certificate!

One requirement of all of the categories of the Achievement Program is completion and submittal of a Statement of Qualifications, or SOQ, for each application. The basic SOQ includes a description of the work accomplished by the modeler in compliance with the category requirements, and possibly a witness affidavit by two or more NMRA members affirming that the work listed was completed. In some cases, the SOQ must be accompanied by other documentation listing how the category accomplishments were completed.

No one likes paper work, especially when it is related to a hobby effort and doesn't seem to contribute to his or her hobby skills. Paper work is often stated as the sole reason for not participating in the Achievement Program. However, without this documentation, there is no way to know what a modeler has done, especially when there are certain standards for participation in the Achievement Program. The Achievement Program is designed to encourage better modeling, increase a modeler's overall skills, and to recognize outstanding work. It is not a program to simply indicate what a modeler has completed – the work must stand above the norm. If a modeler really wants to participate in this program, they need to take the few minutes necessary to complete the required documentation.

Most SOQs can be quite simple to complete. For example, the *Master Builder - Cars* certificate requires that you build eight operable scale models of railroad cars (with at least four different types of cars represented, each one super-detailed, and at least four of which are scratch-built), and you must score at least 87½ points on four of the eight models. On the SOQ, you must therefore list these eight models by description (B&O 40' boxcar, etc.) Since you must receive at least 87½ points for

half of the models, the easiest way to satisfy that requirement is to enter them in a divisional or regional modeling contest which uses the standard NMRA scoring system. At Divisional meets and Regional Conventions, models can be entered for scoring purposes only and not in the actual competition if desired. Attaching copies of the model contest judging forms is an easy way to document this portion of the requirements. If you enter all eight models in modeling contests, attaching the model contest judging forms can easily satisfy the entire documentation portion of the requirements by listing the amount of work done, listing the super-detailing effort, etc.

Some AP categories, such as *Master Builder - Scenery*, also require that you document how you satisfied the category requirements with a description of the work completed. This can be in a simple outline form if desired.

#### MEET JACK BURGESS

Jack Burgess has had a passion for modeling the Yosemite Valley Railroad for the past 40 years. His YVRR layout was started in 1980 and fills a 20x20-foot space and replicates the prototype Yosemite Valley Railroad as it appeared in August 1939. There are over on hundred structures on the layout, all of which were scratchbuilt from photos and other information. His layout is known around the world for its dedication to following the prototype as closely as possible. Jack finished the layout in June 2011.

Jack worked as a civil engineer for the City of Newark for 39 years before retiring in 2004. He is active in the National Model Railroad Association and worked on the committees responsible for the 2000 San Jose and 2011 Sacramento NMRA Conventions. He is currently the Achievement Program Chairman for the Pacific Coast Chapter and is Master Model Railroader #136. Jack has written a book on the Yosemite Valley Railroad entitled *Trains to Yosemite* which was published by Signature Press in 2005 but not out of print. He has a website at [www.yosemitevalleyrr.com](http://www.yosemitevalleyrr.com).

## AP Awards

Jack Dziadul, Jim Murphy photos

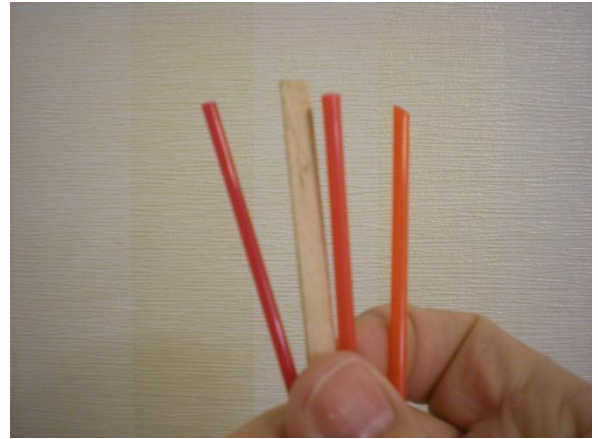
Division AP Chairman **Vic Bitleris** had a record breaking awards ceremony at the May meeting. **Rob Rousseau** received his Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical certificate, while **Stephen Wood** brought home four AP certificates for Master Builder - Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical, Master Builder – Structures and Association Volunteer. Stephen (5 awards), Rob (4 awards) are both well along to becoming Master Model Railroaders (MMR), as is **Gene Sing** who has five awards.



## Mr. Cheap

Jack Dziadul

The next time you stop to buy a cup of coffee be sure to pick up some pipe loads for the gondola or for that roadside water line construction project on your layout. Or, perhaps your favorite donut shop carries lumber for its model railroader customers instead.



If your coffee is really hot you might want pick up some corrugated roofing material so that you do not burn your hands.



## May Contest Winner

Jim Murphy



## **THE YARD**

By: Stephen C. Wood

The purpose of this article is to stimulate thinking and planning with reference to the yard area(s) of readers' layouts. Observations and suggestions are based on two sources: the writer's own experiences building and using a large freight yard on his HO layout, and the experiences which he has gathered in several years of acting as a guest operator on the vast P&W layout, as well as five or six other layouts located in Charlotte, NC.

At the time of this writing, the author has torn down an HO layout representing over twelve years of work. He has, over a period of three years, put together a plan for a new layout, which will be U-shaped and include a major yard at each end of the U. He wishes to share his thoughts so that other model railroaders will be better able to plan intelligently for the construction of yard facilities.

The yard just demolished had over a dozen classification tracks but they were difficult to use and not typical prototypes. The new yards will be of differing types: one is a classification yard for freight trains and cars. In the freight yard, cars will be sorted into groups according to the destinations for which they are bound. The other yard will be a coach yard, in which passenger trains and cars can be serviced and where they can lay over until assembled into trains. The coach yard should include a transfer table and not a turntable.

Properly, the main line runs through the yard rather than around it. The main line, the most important track on the road, carries everything from freight and livestock to passengers and their goods, and sometimes mail. The main line should be kept clear 95% of the time. On the P&W the main line that runs through the largest yard, which also leads to the passenger stations, has two turnouts leading into the yard, one at each end.

In a working yard there is a "lead track" from which all others turn out or to which they are connected. There is one track for the switcher, and that locomotive should be able to get to

any other track in a single forward move and return from almost anywhere in a single reverse move. Provisions may be made for an assisting switcher if desired.

In designing the yard, I learned that it should be clear for action at any time. It will be helpful to avoid crossovers or other track arrangements which would interfere with the yard lead and which might cause confusion. Arriving and departing trains should be able to access the lead and go on to the main line with a minimum of delay at any time. In my new design, tracks for this purpose are sidings off the main with a connection to the yard lead. This was easier said than done! Tracks where trains are stored temporarily should be accessible to the yard switcher so that cars can be pulled onto the lead, classified, and then coupled to others as a new train is formed. One special track, which is used for storage of cabooses, will need to be close to the tracks where departing freights are assembled.

Another track which may prove useful is a runaround. It will enable the switcher to pick up a caboose and move it to the rear of a new train without having to back up the entire train into the caboose storage track. A runaround should be as long as space permits, so that it may serve the most units in the yard.

A vital point, which surfaces repeatedly, is the need to have everything reachable. Does a layout have to be 32" wide? Can it be better at 36" or 40"? Such considerations include plans for curves: radii vary from about 18" to perhaps 46" depending on the available space and configuration of the layout. Manufacturers of rolling stock are usually happy to inform hobbyists what curve is required for their locomotives or passenger cars. Obviously, a huge articulated requires a larger curve than a compact diesel switcher! The yard may require, from time to time, a manual correction of a derailment, coupling problem, or some other mechanical challenge. It is essential that the operator be able to reach every part of the yard.

It will pay an operator to consider the length of the trains to be entered, stored, or put together

in any yard. The length of sidings, classification tracks, storage tracks, etc., will reflect that operator's best judgment or appraisal of the vitally important factor. There is usually something moving in the yard, and it is vital that assembled trains do not block turnouts or otherwise disrupt traffic.

The yard needs to be, in every way, human-friendly. Its operation should be readily understood by visiting operators as well as by the owning engineer. Otherwise, what has been built is neither functional nor representative: it is only pretty as it sits there. It also needs to be train friendly: if it must service more than one main line, there must be a crossover arrangement at each end to allow coming and going as appropriate.

All this reads as though the yard must be physically extensive. On the new layout, there will be one 8 foot by 4-foot yard accessible from three sides and one 8 foot by 6-foot yard accessible from three sides. Needs of other operators will vary widely? The idea is simply to design something which is functionally useful within the space available. The details are limited only by the imagination and ingenuity of the owner. I hope that the above observations will put the thinking and designing process in motion.

## Train Word Puzzles

Dr. Charles Wood

Seventh installment in a series

Solutions can be found on the last page.

P E S E S X R

L I N S A G

E E A L G P T H R

A A E R M K B N

C G S N O I R S

## Operations Opportunities

Jack Frame's Monon HO scale DCC  
Second and third Friday evening slots available.  
Sign on for one or both evenings.

## Coming Attractions

- 1. Kim Parker** offers this synopsis of the June program. "**Steam, Steam, the magical brute. The more you feed it the more you toot!**" This program will discuss the challenges of modeling steam. We will be sharing lessons learned. Items on the discussion block will include: manufacturer's steam modeling challenges and solutions, quartering, that pesky eccentric, sanding tubes, feed water hoses, pilot wheel problems and solutions, delicate parts and last but not least, proper maintenance. A demonstration of sound on a top of the line MTH engine as well as sound from a SoundTraxx Tsunami. If there is time we will also look at some solutions to a few of the more common manufacturers' issues like Athearn USRA 2-8-2, Rivarossi Big Boys and Bachmann 2-10-2. Popular vote contest in June will be "STEAM Locomotives, any type". Bring your BEST...just remember, only 2 each.

# **North Raleigh Model Railroad Club**

Jack Dziadul, Jim Murphy photos

We enjoyed a special treat at the May meeting as the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club brought in the modules that the club is constructing. As shown in the first photograph, the club is modeling the downtown area of Apex, NC.





## Meeting Minutes

Jack Dziadul

### Carolina Piedmont Division 13

May 22, 2012

Attendance: Vic Bitleris, Jim Murphy, Steve Milley, Robert Rousseau, Jack Dziadul - Call to order 6:30pm

1. April meeting minutes approved Vic Bitleris motion, Jim Murphy second.
2. Paymaster's report approved as submitted. Vic Bitleris motion, Jim Murphy second.
3. Review and acceptance of the 2011 Audit Committee report. Approved on motion of Jim Murphy with Vic Bitleris second.
4. Officer's and Director's liability insurance coverage. After discussion it was decided that Board members attending the MER convention would discuss options and need with John Roberts at that time. Jack Dziadul will also raise the issue on the Regions and Divisions Yahoo group.
5. Piedmont Crossing volunteer rebates will be distributed at the June meeting.

Board adjourned 7 PM.

#### General Business meeting convened 7:05 PM

1. **Jim Murphy** reviewed the Board of Directors meeting
2. **Vic Bitleris** presented the Golden Spike and Electrical AP certificates to **Rob Rousseau** and four AP certificates to **Stephen Wood**: Structures, Electrical, Scenery and Author.
3. **Robert Rousseau** presented the program "Modeling the Durham & Southern".
4. **Steve Milley** discussed the Coal Tower diorama contest and had kits available for sale.
5. **John Wallis** and **Mark Blaustein** introduced members of the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club who set up their N scale diorama of Apex. Upon completion the layout will be displayed at Convention Center.
6. **Kim Parker** distributed a survey to assess member interest in future clinic subjects.

7. **Marc Blaustein** volunteered to be the August refreshment host.
8. The contest winner was **Jim Murphy**.



### **HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.**

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



**We make it even more fun.**

[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

Then, get that popcorn ready.

## NMRA InfoNet News

By Gerry Leone, MMR

NMRA National Communications Director

**June 2012**

It's almost summer, so here's the June 2012 InfoNet News e-blast!

- The Ballot Committee has met and issued the **official results** of the election from this Spring. The results are:

#### **President:**

Ballots received - 1680,  
Valid ballots cast - 1569

**Charlie W. Getz, IV, HLM** - 1550

#### **Vice President - Administration**

Ballots received - 1680  
Valid ballots cast - 1637

**Dave Thornton** - 723

Clark Kooning, MMR 588  
Howard Goodwin 326

**Vice President - Special Projects**

Ballots received - 1680  
Valid ballots cast - 1599

**Bill Kaufman - 1104**

James "Lumpy" Lupfer - 493  
Norman Frowly (Write-in) - 1  
Charles W Getz, IV, HLM (Write-in) - 1

**Eastern District Director:**

Ballots received - 523  
Valid ballots cast - 472

**John Roberts, MMR, HLM - 461**

Various individual write-in votes - 9 (on each)

**Pacific District Director**

Ballots received - 90  
Valid ballots cast - 90

**Mike Bartlett - 53**

Robert Peterson - 25  
Kelly Loyd = 12

**At-Large North America Director**

Ballots Received - 1565  
Valid ballots cast - 1477

**Miles Hale, MMR - 865**

Mike Brestel - 610  
Dave Barrow - 1  
Whit Johnson - 1

There were seven (7) ballots unopened as they were postmarked beyond the deadline.

- **The Board of Directors will meet** in Grand Rapids on Friday, July 27, Saturday, July 28, and Sunday, July 29. While the Friday meeting is a closed caucus, most of the Saturday and Sunday meetings are open to all members. At this time the meeting room hasn't been determined, so check with the convention hotel after you arrive if you're interested in attending.
- The NMRA has **revisited its corporate status** and has incorporated in the State

of Missouri. One of the driving factors was to enable the Board to conduct electronic meetings (a practice not allowed in the State of Ohio, where the NMRA was formerly incorporated). This lets the Board vote on matters of significance in the time between the Winter and Summer meetings. The move also provides the proper opportunity to revisit the regulations (bylaws) as we update them to satisfy the Missouri Corporate requirements.

- GrandRails 2012 has just signed up **a rep from QSI who will be presenting several clinics** about their brand new diesel sound system. The system lets users control sound and light functions to match specific railroad practices. Check the clinic schedule for this addition.
- Coming soon: an announcement on the convention website about **self-guided tours at GrandRails2012**. Watch for it

And, again an important message from the Convention committee. Now's the time to make sure your convention-going members are aware of it!

- **Grand Rails 2012 is looking for volunteers** who'd be willing to donate an hour or two of their time at the convention doing things like contest room security, helping with registration check-in, silent auction set-up and tear-down, and bus loading. If you're interested and have an hour or two you'd like to donate, contact Mark Baldwin, Vice Chair of Volunteers, at [gr2012volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:gr2012volunteers@gmail.com) for more details.

## From The Business Car

Grif Bond, Superintendent

I have opened the box to the Life Like coaling tower, inspected all the parts, separated them from the sprues and trimmed all the flash. Now I am pondering how these adapt to a unique kit bashing application for something that I use on my model railroad. I have identified a number of options (keeping them to myself) and will soon start planning on the build. I encourage you to participate in the latest special modeling contest. The Division still has some Life Like HO scale coaling towers for the contest. Kits will be available at the June meeting. The contest entries will be displayed at the March 2013 Division meeting. The guidelines/rules are similar to previous special modeling contests...

1. Build your kit using a minimum of 50% of the parts and display it on a diorama/base (maximum size of 24" by 36" in HO scale and 24" by 18" in N scale).
2. Identify the structure(s) with a sign or an index card explaining what it is.
3. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place "popular vote" and the Board of Directors will award 3 additional prizes. All prizes will be model railroading tools and/or supplies that can be used in any scale.

**Rail Pass**, the 6 month NMRA membership "trial" continues to be popular for the Division. The MER is maintaining the one-time \$9.95 funding to help build membership. We have signed-up 4 new Rail Pass members in the last 60 days. If you know of a potential recruit, contact me. I'll have **Rail Pass** applications at the Divisions meetings.

Remember to support the MER and the Tidewater Division by attending the 2012 MER convention, **Mile Post 40**, in October. The convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Suffolk, Virginia, on October 18 – 21. The convention plans include a train show and some interesting prototype tours. The next Division meeting is June 26. The program is **Steam, Steam, toot...** presented by Kim Parker aka Train Buddy. The popular vote contest is steam locomotives. Come join your fellow model railroaders. See you there.

## Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.



Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

**We make it even more fun.**  
[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)  
 4 2 3 - 8 9 2 - 2 8 4 6



## Check out 6,000 train books.

Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

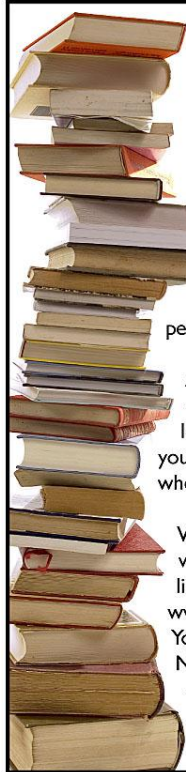
As an NMRA member, you have easy access to everything – it's all just a phone call, letter, or email away. Our staff will even help you do research about virtually any train topic, whether it's model or prototype.

Visit one of the world's largest train libraries at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.



Check it all out!

**We make it even more fun.**  
[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)  
 4 2 3 - 8 9 2 - 2 8 4 6



## Word Puzzle Answers

Solutions: express, signal, telegraph, brakeman, crossing