
DESERT MODELER

Edited by Bruce Petrarca, MMR | AZ division AP Manager | ap@azdiv-nmra.org

In 2021, AZ Division

picked up where 2020 left off.

Frank Baker finished his Civil certificate through a Zoom meeting with evaluators in three divisions: San Diego, Northern Utah and Arizona. That completes his requirements for MMR. As of this writing, paperwork is into National.

After vaccinations, three of us met at Paul Buhrke's for a tour of his gorgeous HOn3 layout and to evaluate his Cars. His award has been issued. He is putting his final touches on Author, which will complete his MMR.

Bob Ginger is completing work on Cars, his last certificate for MMR. On a recent visit, he displayed progress, including a scratch built N-gauge rotary snow plow. I'm not sure I'd tackle one in HO. Good work, Bob.

Chris Thompson earned his Golden Spike.

Congratulations, Gordy!

The election results are in and Gordy Robinson was handily elected. He takes office on July 2, but has been working hard to hit the ground running. I'm very encouraged with what I've seen so far. It is a really good time to get involved with the NMRA. Working together, let's see what we can make it.

JULY: AZ division meet!

Finally, we will have the first division meet in almost 2 years.

Save the date of July 24 and plan to meet in Prescott. More information will be forthcoming in a Mail Chimp blast.

Expect the usual clinics and business meeting and contest room. There will be lots of information about the AP and many awards to present.

Roundhouse magazine

is the publication of the British region. After a couple of requests in as many years, I have finished an article for their series, **My Achievement Program Journey**. There is nothing like writing about what you are doing or have done to help focus your thoughts about a lot of things. Some of the things that bubbled up in that article I'll be sharing with you. Some will make their way into future editions of this newsletter. I will be basing my clinic in the July meet on this article, as well.

Information Source

I just discovered a well-kept secret of the NMRA.

In the members-only section of the site (you gotta sign on to see it), there is a collection of what they call **Legacy NMRA Data Sheets**.

I would never have thought of looking there, but there is a treasure-trove of data.

For example, what is the difference between a simple and a compound ladder? The answer is there?

How wide is a C-19 locomotive?

How do I differentiate ALCO diesel locomotives?

The direct link is:

<https://www.nmra.org/members/legacy-data-sheets>

You may have to log into your NMRA account before you click on this link to access it.

Check it out. I'll bet there is an answer to a question you have been puzzling over in that section of the website.

Since this is an archive, some of the data, for example, soldering from 1953, is dated or obsolete. But other data is timeless, like steam locomotive identification.

Golden Spike

This is intended as the introduction to the AP. Most folks do this first.

It is fairly easy - "display" some cars and structures you have built. Have some ballasted and wired track and another electrical item, like a lighted building. Get a fellow member to sign your application.

However, in some cases, mine included, the early AP certificates were for non-modeling achievements. In my case, I earned Chief Dispatcher, Author and Volunteer before I earned any of the artistic certificates. I got Structures and then Cars. I had planned on getting Scenery on the club layout and doing my Golden Spike then. Well, I got ahead of myself and did not apply for my Golden Spike. Instead, I went for the Engineering awards and submitted my SOQ for MMR, not realizing that I was cutting off my ability to qualify for the Golden Spike.

So, if you aren't following the "path" with Golden Spike leading the way, be sure to apply for it before you submit your MMR SOQ. Otherwise, you will be left out in the cold, as I am.

Carl Heimberger, the PSR AP manager and I, the AZ division manager, are both aware of and watchful for this. We hope to make sure it doesn't happen to others. Do yourself a favor and keep it in mind, too.

For more information and the application form, see:

<https://www.nmra.org/golden-spike-award>

September convention

Plan now for the PSR convention coming up quickly.

See:

<https://www.psrconvention.org/OrangeBlossomSpecial2021>