

DESERT MODELER

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2021 was a big year

Firstly, congratulations to our newest MMR, Bob Ginger, MMR #695.

We have honored many folks this year. Many awards have been issued, as of November:

Golden Spikes - 4
 Certificates - 8
 MMR - 2

Since the last Desert Modeler in May, the following have been issued:

May:
 Frank Baker: Civil, MMR #683

June:
 Lenny Smith: Golden Spike

August:
 Lenny Smith: Volunteer

September:
 Jeff Liedl: Scenery

October:
 Kenneth Wolfe: Golden Spike

November:
 Richard Petrina: Volunteer and
 Official
 Bob Ginger: Cars, MMR #695

Congratulations, all.

Don Wilde steps up

as AP Assistant. Since I became Superintendent, I really need help with the AP program. I asked in the new Spur Line and Don volunteered. He wanted me to share this with the membership:



I signed up to help Bruce encourage other Arizona modelers to go beyond their perceived limits through the AP. I did it also because I have high hopes of attaining my own MMR cert after sixty years of mostly being a wannabe model railroader.

Having done so, feeling my oats, I chose to take on the most challenging award in the AP options offered: Master Builder – Motive Power.

My intention is to achieve this award despite several challenges: I will build in Sn3 and my setting is pre-1895 on the eastern seaboard. Not your average HO 4x8! I have two steam locomotive kits to fulfill some of the requirements. For the scratch built requirement, I will build a steam railcar. It's going to take a lot of creative brainstorming as well as careful craftsmanship in a lot of different media.

The end result is going to be well worth my efforts, but Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt have ganged up on me. A vendor has already managed to lose my order for

Volunteer Points

One of the easiest, if not fastest, certificates to earn is Volunteer.

Almost anything that you can do at a division meet earn points (yah, they officially call them Time Units, but I like points): helping at the meeting, judging at the contest, evaluating for AP models, crewing an open house held in conjunction with the meet.

Open houses held in conjunction with NMRA sponsored events earn at least 3 TUs for those who host or are part of the crew. Division or region meets and conventions are, of course, sponsored. Open houses held by any 100% club can be considered "sponsored" at the direction of the division Superintendent.

As the new Superintendent, I have suggested to the three 100% clubs that they register their open houses with me ahead of time so that they can be considered for Volunteer points.

Be sure and bring your Volunteer Record & Validation form with you when you crew and get it signed. Those points can really add up. Get the form from the NMRA site, by [clicking here](#).

– Bruce

drivers!

Does this sound familiar? I'm sure it resonates for a lot of you!

It's not appropriate for me to take up space about my personal journey in YOUR newsletter, but I'll be posting regularly on my Facebook trainiac blog page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063753811885>

We can all do this!

- Don

While Don has been a NMRA member longer than many of us and a modeler since age 5, it is my pleasure to welcome him to a position of division leadership. There is room for others to join us!

November division meet

The contest room had 7 entries and 6 earned merit awards. Good work.

We also held an evaluation of the last of Stephen Drees' Cars at the meet and then did a Zoom evaluation of his layout later in the week for Electrical, Civil and Scenery. These have all been submitted to national and should be in the December batch.

AP activity

At this point, we have a half-dozen division members actively pursuing their MMR certification. Some need all seven certificates, others only need a few points for some certificate, such as Author.

Now is a really good time to be "in the program." There is lots of momentum and synergy. Mentors abound.