



# SPUR LINE

Editor: Frank Baker

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November Meet / New Officers / Articles from Terry Fearn and Bruce Petrarca / 2023 Regional Convention / Contest Results

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The Arizona Division held its fall division meeting on November 13th at the Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ in Scottsdale. The fall meet, usually held in Tucson but, due to roof damage due to high winds with St. Odilia's Church roof, we were forced to relocate. Tucson will hold the Spring meet if the church becomes available.

Division attendance was fairly good considering most members concern over Covid among the older members. A lot of familiar faces were present. Attendance was 65 NMRA Division members and two new RailPass members. Considering Covid concerns, that was fairly good attendance.

The contest room had a great turnout of models. The clinics were very topical and well received by all. Terry Fearn, the new Arizona Division Director gave a presentation on his recent train ride thru Colorado. The Capital Club gave an excellent presentation on their application of LCC on their layout.

Richard Petrina, completed his term as superintendent. Bruce Petrarca expressed interest filling Richard's job and a vote of members present was taken. Bruce will also continue to serve as the AP Chairperson, with the help of others, as you will read in his notes.



**Best in Show—Alan Olson / Northern Pacific**



I wish to say hello and introduce myself to the members of the NMRA Arizona Division. It is my privilege to be the new Director of the Division and I look forward to meeting as many members as possible and working with the members of the board of directors. Bruce Petrarca, the Superintendent of the division and I will work closely together. I am the division representative to the PSR region while Bruce works on the programs and meetings. Also, I want to thank Frank Baker for his leadership during the past four years.

The Arizona Division is one of four divisions in the NMRA Pacific Southwest Region. At 343 members, we are the largest division in the PSR, both in terms of members and geographic area. Whereas we have many members, scheduling meets that are convenient to every chapter member is a challenge but also the priority of the chapter leadership team. We will continue scheduling meets in northern and southern Arizona, plus the Valley. It is my goal to continue expanding our membership and to ensure every member feels welcome in our chapter. We will host the PSR regional meeting in the fall of 2023. There already is a committee in place evaluating possible locations.

Feel free to email me with any comments and suggestions.

My email address is [director@azdiv-nmra.org](mailto:director@azdiv-nmra.org)

**Terry Fearn / Director / Az Div.**

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**GEMINO BUILDING / BILL STIMSON**

**FOS BUILDING / CHARLIE NIDIVER**



Thank you for the vote of confidence in my taking over from Richard Petrina as Superintendent. Richard and Frank Baker have been the guiding hand on the division for about four years now. Thanks to them for all they have done. Terry Fearn (the new Director) and I are planning for a coordinated approach to the division leadership. Terry will be representing us to the PSR and I will be handling the day-to-day division business.

The leadership team is shown on the division website: <https://azdiv-nmra.org/leadership>  
I will be continuing as the AP manager. I find it a real joy, helping folks become better modelers. However, I need an assistant. Come join the team.

We need to fill all the division leadership positions. Most committees have a chair, but need members. Please think within yourself and see what you can do. The more you participate, the more you'll enjoy the NMRA, I guarantee it! Besides having fun, you can earn Volunteer points every month working on a committee.

Get the most you can out of your NMRA membership! Participate! The NMRA is the collection of the members' talents and abilities. I have learned that the more you put in, the more you will get out.

Marshall Wales has done a yeoman's job as webmaster for the division and is also backup for the region's webmaster. He is looking for an assistant to help at the division level. If you have some computer skills, please consider lending a hand. This will earn ½ point per month, even if you are working on another committee.

There are great things ahead for our division and region. The election of Gordy Robinson MMR, as president has already had a positive influence on the NMRA worldwide. This impact will continue for years, I believe.

Our division is scheduled to host the 2023 PSR Convention. Conventions we have hosted have been the toast of the PSR, drawing folks from around the world. The committee is working now on the foundation for another winner, under John Lovely MMR and Jess Poole's guidance. Consider volunteering for this committee now. This is a regional event, so participation earns twice the points that divisional committees do.

We are starting a Hospitality Committee. It needs three members; one each from Northern, Central and Southern Arizona. One of these members will serve as the chair. This committee will be our eyes and ears in each area. They will be looking for places to meet, being the contact for the facility, stocking food and beverages as necessary for meets, etc.

We are looking to expand the divisional activities. Be on the lookout for a questionnaire eMailed to the membership soon. We will be asking for input as to who wants what and what they will do to facilitate the things they ask for. Meanwhile, if you have suggestions, you can always eMail me at **superintendent@azdiv-nmra.org**.

We need to improve the mentorship of new members, both regular members and folks who join with the short-term Rail Pass. We only have one opportunity to give them a good first impression. We need mentors who are willing to invest time in our new folks: help them to understand what is happening, get them to a meeting or other event, get them to the lay-outs of some members, find out what their interests are. In short, show them what the NMRA can do to help them with their hobby. This all falls under the Member Aid Committee. This committee has not had a leader for quite some time. It is my pleasure to announce that Paul Buhrke has volunteered to chair it. Paul will need some help to pull this off. It is a great opportunity for you to get to know some folks and solidify relationships within the division.

Congratulations to our most recent MMRs: John Lovely #662; Frank Baker #683 and Bob Ginger #695. We actually had five MMRs attend the November meet.

As you can see, we have a lot happening that needed to be shared.

### **Help Wanted**

- Assistant Webmaster; Assistant AP manager; Mentors for Rail Pass members;
- Meet hosts for all three areas of Arizona: North, Central and South;
- Committee members for most committees

**Please find something you like to do and volunteer for the committee.**

eMail me at [superintendent@azdiv-nmra.org](mailto:superintendent@azdiv-nmra.org).

**Achievement Program** As mentioned in the *Superintendent's* column, I will be continuing as the AP manager. The committee needs help including an Assistant AP Manager (½ Volunteer point per month). In the time since our last *Spur Line* (May 2016), there has been a huge increase in interest in the AP. Here are the certificates and Golden Spikes that have been issued from early 2016 to October 2021, alphabetically:

**Frank Baker:** Golden Spike; Scenery; Official; Civil Engineer; MMR #683

**Paul Buhrke:** Golden Spike; Chief Dispatcher; Electrical Engineer; Civil Engineer; Scenery; Prototype Models; Cars

**Jack DeBolt:** Electrical Engineer

**Stephen Drees:** Structures

**Bob Ginger:** Golden Spike; Author; Scenery; Structures; Electrical Engineer; Civil Engineer; Chief Dispatcher

**Jeff Liedl:** Electrical Engineer; Civil Engineer; Structures; Scenery

**John Lovely:** Structures; MMR #662

**Bruce Petrarca:** Electrical Engineer; Civil Engineer; MMR #574

**Lenny Smith:** Golden Spike; Volunteer

**Chris Thompson:** Golden Spike

In the last 2+ years, Arizona division members have earned more certificates than the rest of the PSR combined. There have been a lot of merit award models evaluated and judged during that time to cover all those certificates. Congratulations, all. But that's not all. As of Thanksgiving, Bob Ginger earned his Cars certificate and MMR #695. There are about a half-dozen other folks seriously pursuing their MMR certification.

INTERLOCKING TOWER—JEFF LIEDL



**AIRPLANE CAFÉ**  
by TIM GILLILAND



**FAIRFAX DEPOT—CHARLIE SCHWARTZ**

The AP is covered on the division website: <https://azdiv-nmra.org/achievement-program/ap-information>.

The category of **Service to the Hobby** is one of the more daunting for many folks. At least one certificate in this category is required for MMR. The certificates involved are Author; Volunteer and Official. While the applicant can turn up the heat and finish many certificates, such as Cars or Structures, most of these “Category 4” Certificates require months or years. So, plan ahead.

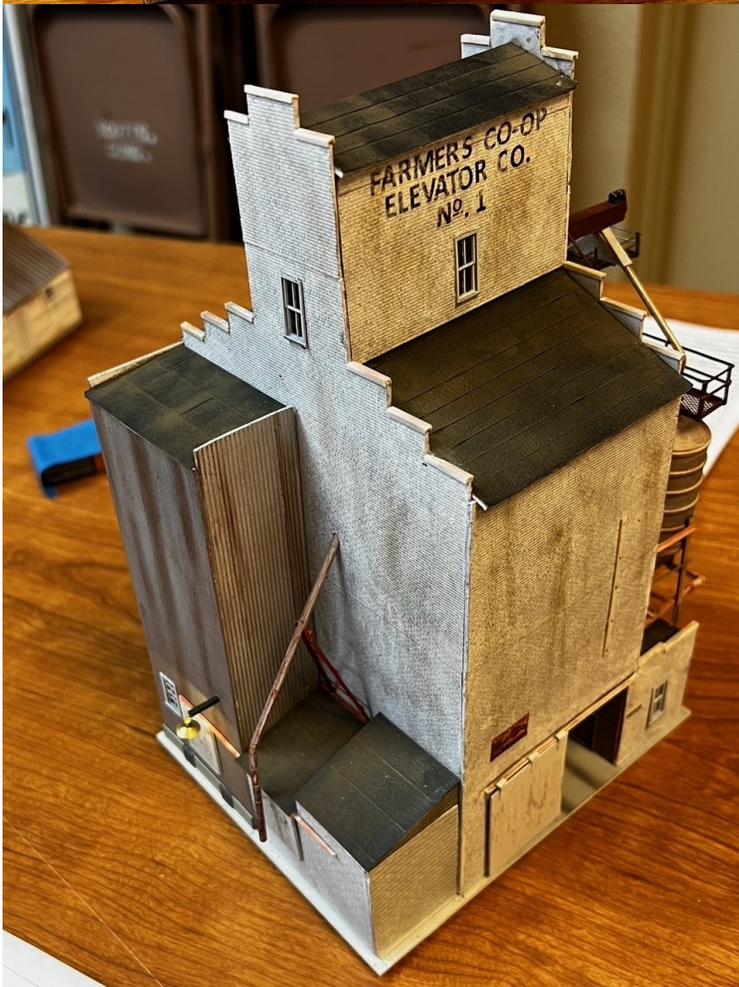
**Official** requires that the applicant be elected to a position and serve satisfactorily for as much as three years to qualify. No way to speed that up.

**Author** involves many avenues and might be better called MultiMedia. Clinic handouts, webpages or blogs, and even videos can earn points. However, these submissions frequently require editorial review and may take years to be published in a major magazine, where one can earn the most points per page or photo. Half of the points can be earned by having an article available on the web that anyone can access. I have set up a section on our division website for folks to publish themselves. The address is <https://azdiv-nmra.org/achievement-program/ap-blog> Check it out. Contact me to get your article posted there (ap@azdiv-nmra.org).

Also, now that Frank has brought our **Spur Line** back, he needs articles. Publication in the **Spur Line** can count for the other half of the points needed for Author. If you are looking to earn Author, check with me and let’s make a plan for you.

**Volunteer** takes a serious amount of work for the NMRA. While points can be earned at any level of involvement, the higher the visibility, the more points. For example, judging at a division contest (even as a trainee) earns one point per day. Regional judging earns two points per day and National earns three. Check out the Superintendent’s column for the many opportunities to earn Volunteer points in our division right now. Print out the **Record and Validation** form from the NMRA website. Get signatures along the way.

Remember the mantra of the AP: ***Be the best you can be, we are here to help.***



Co-op elevator #1 / Charlie Schwartz

Co=op elevator #2 / Charlie Schwartz