



## Tidewater Division

# CALLBOARD

NMRA MEMBER

January 2025

### "Superintendent's Desk"

**John Robey, Superintendent**

Another year has come and gone! Looking back, we had a pretty good year of model railroading. We concluded the year with our annual business meeting in January and at the same time commenced on a new year for the hobby.

First, we should congratulate the award winners for the 2024 year. Alan Balma as the Modeler of the Year, with his excellent work on a "S" scale layout in his home in Williamsburg. Next, our Volunteer of the Year is Dr. Greg Warth for his tireless contributions as numerous editor positions to the MER, Division, the MRRMHR editor and webmaster, and I understand a doctor's association in Virginia Beach! And the Superintendent's Award was presented to Mark Neiting for his continuing support of model railroading, planning meetings and events, developing a recruiting/information brochure for the Division and

*continued on page 5*

### This Month in Rail History

Jan 1, 1986: Milwaukee Railroad merges with the Soo Line.

Jan 6, 1893: Great Northern RR drives last spike at Scenic WA.

January 8, 1863: California governor Leland Stanford shovels dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Central Pacific Railroad in Sacramento.

January 10, 1863: The Metropolitan Underground Railway in London begins operating, becoming the world's first subway

Jan 16, 1868: William Davis patents the refrigerator car.

Jan 17, 1871: Andrew Hallidie patents the first cable car.

Jan 17, 1957: Bay Area Rapid Transit (San Francisco, CA) is formed.

Jan 25, 1955: British Railways announces plans to end steam operations.

January 26, 1909: The Jamestown, Franklin and Clearfield Railroad is formed in Pennsylvania

Jan 31, 1935: Union Pacific's M-10000 enters service as the "City of Salina (KS)."

### BILL OF LADING – JAN 2025

- 3** "Around the Bend" Division Photos
- 4** The Art of Model Railroading
- 5** Kansas UP Derailment
- 6**
- 7**
- 9**

"The Callboard" is the newsletter of the Tidewater Division of the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA and any opinions found herein are those of the authors thereof and of the Editors and do not necessarily reflect any policies of this organization. The Tidewater Division, as a non-profit organization, does not endorse any position. Your comments are welcome! Please direct all questions or concerns to: [sorcerer54@cox.net](mailto:sorcerer54@cox.net)

## **Master Model Railroader (MMR) Update**

### **Tidewater Division Members**

**by Chuck Davis**

**M**ost division members are aware of who within Tidewater holds the prestigious “MMR” rating. Currently John Spanagel, Chuck Davis, Norm Garner, Dale Ridgeway and Bob Cook carry the coveted title of MMR. The “Callboard” would like to acknowledge the following member(s) for their most recent MMR Achievements:

Master Builder -Scenery: Alan Balma Model Railroad Engineer - Civil: Alan Balma  
Model Railroad Engineer -Electrical: Alan Balma

Qualifications for this ranking include choosing seven of the following eleven categories and successfully completing all the requirements. They are: Author, Official, Volunteer, Master Builder-Scenery, Master Builder-Cars, Master Builder-Motive Power, Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder-Prototype Models, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical and Chief Dispatcher. For more details contact the Achievement Program chairman, Chuck Davis at [chuck-davis@cox.net](mailto:chuck-davis@cox.net)

## **NMRA Benefits Information**

**A**s an NMRA member, are you aware of discounts on purchased merchandise? Yes, the NMRA partners with multiple manufacturers giving the membership varying discounts when you purchase an item.

For more details, click on [NMRA Partners](#)

## **Callboard Subscribers**

**T**he Callboard is available for free via e-mail or at the Tidewater Division web-site: <http://www.nmar-mer-tidewater.org/>. Printed copies in B/W are available on request, contact the Callboard editor at [sorcerer54@cox.net](mailto:sorcerer54@cox.net) for details.

## **Division Mtg & Contest Nov 9, 2024**

Nov 9, 2024 – the Division Business meeting. The contest is “Diorama.” Hobbytown, 4000, Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA. It is unknown at this time if coffee and donuts will be provided.

## **Tidewater Division**

### **Board of Directors**

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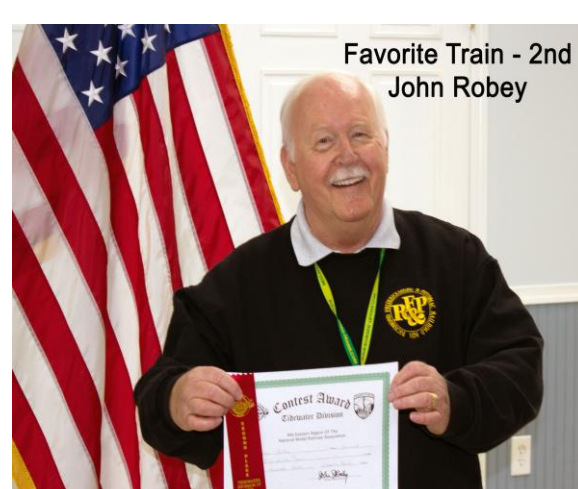
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## **“Around the Bend” Business Mtg & Member Photos**





# **The Art of Model Railroading and Its Enthusiasts**

**By Clark Franklin (this article courtesy of Superintendent John Robey)**

**M**odel railroading is a captivating hobby that has captured the hearts and imaginations of enthusiasts around the world. From the meticulous attention to detail to the intricate craftsmanship, this art form offers a unique blend of creativity and technical skill. Whether it's building a miniature railway layout or collecting model trains, model railroading has something to offer for everyone.

## **The History of Model Railroading**

The roots of model railroading can be traced back to the late 19th century when the first toy trains were introduced. These early models were simple and primitive, made primarily of metal and powered by clockwork mechanisms. As technology advanced, so did the complexity and realism of model trains. In the early 20th century, electric trains became popular, and model railroading began to evolve into a serious hobby. The introduction of scale models, which accurately replicated real-life trains and landscapes, added a new level of authenticity to the hobby.

## **The Artistic Side of Model Railroading**

Model railroading is more than just assembling train sets and running them on tracks. It is a form of art that requires creativity and attention to detail. From designing and building layouts to painting and weathering models, there are many aspects of model railroading that allow enthusiasts to express their artistic talents. One of the most fascinating parts of model railroading is creating lifelike scenery. Enthusiasts spend countless hours meticulously crafting miniature landscapes, complete with trees, mountains, rivers, and buildings. The goal is to create a scene that is not only visually appealing but also realistic and immersive.

## **The Craftsmanship Involved**

Model railroading requires both artistic flair and technical skills. Building a model railway layout involves a range of tasks, from carpentry and electrical wiring to painting and model construction. Enthusiasts often find themselves honing their skills in these areas, striving for perfection in every aspect of their layouts. The level of craftsmanship involved in model railroading is truly impressive. From tiny details like placing accurately scaled signs and figures to seamlessly integrating various components, every aspect of the layout must be carefully considered and executed. Attention to detail is paramount, as even the slightest deviation can disrupt the realism of the scene.

## **Collecting and Restoring Model Trains**

Aside from building layouts, many model railroading enthusiasts enjoy collecting and restoring vintage model trains. Like any collectible hobby, the market for model trains has its own set of enthusiasts and collectors who value authenticity and rarity. Some collectors focus on specific eras or manufacturers, while others seek out unique and rare pieces. Restoring vintage model trains requires a combination of mechanical and artistic skills. Collectors often have to disassemble and clean old trains, repair broken parts, repaint and reassemble them to bring them back to their former glory. It is a labor of love that allows enthusiasts to breathe new life into these historical pieces.

## **The Community and Events**

Model railroading has a vibrant and passionate community that brings enthusiasts together. There are model railroad clubs and organizations all over the world where like-minded individuals can share their love for the hobby. These clubs often organize events, exhibitions, and train shows where enthusiasts can showcase their layouts, learn from others, and connect with fellow enthusiasts. Model railroad shows and exhibitions are a great way to immerse oneself in the world of model railroading. These events feature impressive layouts created by enthusiasts who spare no effort to create intricate scenes. From sprawling landscapes to bustling towns and cities, these exhibitions offer a glimpse into the creativity and craftsmanship of model railroading.

## **The Future of Model Railroading**

As technology continues to advance, so does the world of model railroading. The introduction of digital control systems and computer-aided design (CAD) has revolutionized the hobby, allowing enthusiasts to create even more realistic layouts and operate their trains with greater precision. Additionally, advancements in 3D printing technology have made it easier for model railroading enthusiasts to create custom parts and accessories for their layouts and trains. This has opened up new creative possibilities and allowed enthusiasts to bring their unique ideas to life.

*Continued on page 5*

## Conclusion

Model railroading is truly an art form that combines creativity, craftsmanship, and technical skills. From meticulously crafted layouts to restoring vintage trains, enthusiasts pour their passion into every aspect of this hobby. The sense of community and the satisfaction of bringing miniature worlds to life are what make model railroading a beloved pastime for enthusiasts around the world.

Continued from page 1

facilitating the logistics for our meetings. We also will continue the new year with the existing Board of Directors. s always, the Board will be looking for volunteers to fill other committee assignments and responsibilities. I should also mention that our member, Bill Miller was the winner of the Annual Favorite Train award and then was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle!

Some of the interesting ideas presented at the meeting was if we should add a couple of additional monthly meetings. Perhaps, add some winter/spring months and an October meeting to our 6 regular meetings. We are in the process of coordinating the projected schedule with the church calendar to see if this is possible. And at the end of the business meeting Greg Leiphart conducted a clinic on the laser cut wood building kits, reviewing the hotel kit he was awarded in the Diorama contest at the November meeting. And lastly, a call for volunteers for the planning and execution of the MER Annual convention that our division will host in 2026. I encourage all members to start thinking about picking out a responsibility or activity that they would like to work in or with.

Enjoy the hobby!

John



18 cars derailed at starting at line 71 of the train just west of Mayfield, KS. The railroad tried to blame the engineer for the derailment as they thought he went to full dynamic braking too quick. They have also decided that the train make up had much to do with the derailment as there was too much weight behind the auto racks. The railroad has changed operating practices due to this derailment with limiting the number of cars with end of car cushioning or making sure there are DP units behind them. The same derailment is seen below. Both main tracks were out of service for about 18 hours. There was not any haz-mat involved in this derailment.



Training new employees is tough because you have to remember the real rules, not the ones you've invented.

