

The Local

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA



Volume 60

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Number 2

Mid-Eastern Region Proposed Bylaws

*Since the NMRA long-range plan was approved, the MER must modify its bylaws.
Please read these carefully as you will be asked to vote on them later this year.*

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INTRODUCTION

The Mid-Eastern Region was rechartered by the State of Maryland on June 5, 1985, and received eleemosynary recognition from the Internal Revenue Service on October 17, 1985. These two dates should be used for future business purposes.

The MER Board of Directors met on March 1 and 2, 1986, and during the subsequent six months in planning sessions. The sessions were devoted to reviewing the past 20 years' worth of old records, board motions, policy statements and the Bylaws to determine if actions, policy or precedents set by the "old" company would no longer apply except as specifically adopted by the "new" company. The Board identified regional objectives and adopted pertinent "old" policy or stated "new" policy which will help to achieve the goals.

Also, the Board created and approved the adoption of the Executive Handbook which will contain all of the MER policy statements and a copy of the MER vital records. This publication

is to be issued to the MER officers and used by them as the guidelines for the administration and operation of the region.

Further, the Board created and approved the adoption of the objectives which are listed as follows:

REGIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Expand interest in and publicize the hobby of model railroading.
- Promote membership growth.
- Sponsor at least one convention per year.
- Operate on a balanced budget.
- Improve and publicize contest judging standards and procedures.
- Support the national Achievement Program.

All Bylaw amendment changes occurring since the October 1985 Restatement shall contain the date the amendment change was approved by the membership and placed at the end of the amendment.

When an amendment of the Bylaws occurs, that page should be updated and circulated to the holders of this manual with the revision date on that page. If this method becomes a problem, make the change and place the new issue date in the header on page one and circulate the entire Bylaws Section. (8/04)

MID-EASTERN REGION BYLAWS

The Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc.
(A Maryland Corporation)

ARTICLE I: *Name, Purpose and Boundaries*

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc., and is established under the provisions of the Constitution of the National Model Railroad Association.

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Keeping In Touch...

By Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager

As I dig into learning the work of your Business Manager, I continue to discover many new facets of support that Rita Lynam provided to the MER membership and officers. During this transition time it's quite possible I will drop the ball on occasion. But if you think you are missing something, or notice something is wrong in your membership data, please be in touch so we can make things right.

I have been developing a comprehensive database with MER and NMRA membership data. As you receive your renewal reminder letters and membership cards, I will be feeding back to you the information we have on file. Your help in making corrections will facilitate better service to you. For example, a correct email address will get an electronic copy of **The Local** to you, if you choose that service. Also if division brass need information about NMRA members in your area, please be in touch and we can develop data reports to your needs.

Many of you are probably already aware that Rita Lynam has been quite ill. The details were not available to us at "press time" last issue, but she has been in the Hospital and other care facilities ever since Thanksgiving. I am sure she and Ray would appreciate a note from all her friends in the MER. We look forward to her recovery and return to her normal activities.

IN MEMORIAM: One unhappy task for this job is to report losses in our membership. We have been made aware of the passing of Ltc. Francis Cason, a former Life Member from the Potomac Div.; Peter Butler, a former Life Member from the NJ Div; and Frank Schwenk a former member of the James River Div. 

The Local

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A Tax-Exempt Organization

The Local is published six times a year. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of MER elected officials. Commercial suppliers, supplies and materials addressed in **The Local** in no way constitute an endorsement by the MER. Copyright material that appears in **The Local** is used for educational and historical benefit only, and does not constitute infringement of the copyright holder.

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The Local welcomes articles, photographs and model railroad related material as contributions to members' mutual enjoyment of the hobby. Materials should have a wide appeal. Editors will exercise all due care of submissions, but contributors should not send originals without having back-up copies of both articles and photographs. Editors, by definition, reserve the right—and have the responsibility—to make corrections, deletions and changes to accommodate space.

MER web page URL is <http://members.cox.net/chyde/MER/MER.html>

President's Column

By Clint Hyde

WHILE LAST ISSUE was about the Divisions, this issue is about new Bylaws for the Region. The MER's current bylaws have to be changed to conform to the new NMRA bylaws (now called Regulations) by September 1st, 2005—6 months from now.

Last year the MER Board drafted and voted in favor of the proposed new bylaws printed in this issue. Please read them carefully, and refer back to them when your ballot arrives in another month or so. The proposed bylaws are also available on the MER website, if you misplace your copy of **The Local**.

Essentially, the changes are that the MER bylaws no longer say anything about a Trustee, because there is no such role in the NMRA anymore. The replacement (to be called a Director) is not connected directly with our Region (this is not equally true with some other Regions outside continental US). Roger Cason is currently the MER Trustee and will continue in that role until the National convention this year, at which time the incoming slate of Directors will replace ALL of the Trustees. This might turn out to include Roger Cason as the east coast Director if we all vote for him. Ballots for that were in the February **Scale Rails**.

The second major change is that there is no longer any reference to dues, or "Region membership" because the historical three-tier membership has been eliminated. An NMRA member is an NMRA member. Your Region is the one in which you live; your Division, likewise, is the one in which you live. If you don't live within a Division's established territory, you are technically not a division member, but don't let that stop you from visiting any division you wish at any time, or anything going on in another Region. A member is a member.

The third change is really more about cleaning up the bylaws—fixing inconsistencies and redundancies.

I believe these proposed new Bylaws are distinctly better than the ones currently in place. I am interested in your opinion of them—especially if you think there is something wrong or missing. Remember that Bylaws are about governance, so think along those lines. You should be receiving a ballot to vote on the bylaws in April. The ballot will not be long enough to include the bylaws with it, so read them here.

In different news, Alan Mende has told me he wishes to step down as editor of **The Local**, so I am soliciting interested persons to be his replacement. You do get AP Volunteer points for it. Alan can describe for you the actual work he does—and he has done an excellent job of it the past several years. He has agreed to carry on during 2005 until I find a replacement. If you're interested, let me know, and ask Alan what all he does. Qualifications: it'd be good if I could see something you've done like this in the past, or for you to apprentice a bit first.

Also, the time is approaching when **The Local** will be available electronically—you can get a jump on that now by emailing our new Business Manager, Fred Miller, and telling him you want to try it out. He's now in charge of that mailing list. One key benefit

of doing that is that you get the issue FAR ahead of a printed copy, it'll be in color, and it won't have gotten printed a little too dark—unlike last issue's photos.

The Divisions all need to change their bylaws in the same time-period. Roger Cason sent each one a suggested sample of new bylaws. Please address this issue soon, and send your draft new bylaws to Noll Horan and me.

This year's election is for the three Directors. Anyone interested needs to get their photo and description sent to John Johnson (JJ) at 22398 Scojo Dr, Franklin, VA, 23851-2819. I continue to want to have the Directors spread across the Region, one south, one central, and one north. This is roughly the spread we have now, following the term-filling appointments made late last year. 📧

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE

(and earn some AP Points at the same time!)

PRESENT A CLINIC

PLAN AHEAD and share your knowledge in an area you enjoy. We need your expertise in supporting our upcoming Mid-Eastern Regional Convention to be held October 27–30, 2005 in Cary, North Carolina. Clinic times are wide open and preferences will be given on a first come, first serve basis. Presentations will be a minimum of one hour and can be longer depending on the subject and presentation format. A handout is required providing a clinic outline and important points. Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to clinicians at the conclusion of their clinics.

Interested in the NMRA Author Achievement Certificate? You can receive four (4) points for your Clinic. A handout must be a part of the presentation and must be included in the certificate application. If you can present your clinic a second time or more, you can receive two (2) points each time towards the Association Volunteer Certificate.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me about presenting your clinic at the "Rails to Raleigh" Convention. Be a participant and help make our convention a rousing success. My e-mail address is g249sing@hotmail.com, or call me at (919)-931-0946.

Thanks.

Gene Sing 📧

Section 2. The purpose of the Region is to further the objectives of the National Model Railroad Association as set forth in the Regulations of that Association. (8/04)

Section 3. (Deleted) (3/01)

Section 4. The territory encompassed by this Region shall be as designated in the National Model Railroad Association Regulations. Changes to the Region boundaries can only be made by the NMRA Board of Directors. (3/01) (8/04)

ARTICLE II: Membership, Fees and Publications (8/04)

Section 1. Definition

All NMRA members residing within the boundaries of the MER are regular members of the MER. NMRA members residing outside the boundaries of MER are not members of MER. Non-NMRA-members are not MER members. (8/04)

Section 2. Privileges

Membership in this Region shall include the following privileges: The right to hold office (if residing within Regional bounds), to vote on public questions, the right to attend all public meetings, and the opportunity to receive all regional publications. (8/04)

Honorary Life Membership in the Mid-Eastern Region is limited to the right to receipt of all Regional publications and the right to attend all public meetings. (9/87)

Section 3. Subscriptions and Fees (8/04)

A. Deleted (8/04)

B. Deleted (8/04)

C. Deleted (8/93)

D. Deleted (8/04)

E. Deleted (11/97)

F. In the absence of dues per se, a subscription to **The Local** may be obtained at a cost to be determined by the Board. Any NMRA member may subscribe **The Local**.

G. Former MER Life Membership is hereby converted to a lifetime subscription to **The Local**. No further lifetime subscriptions are offered.

H. At the discretion of the MER Board of Directors, other fees may be charged for optional activities and services.

I. Deleted (8/04)

Section 4. Member Publications

A. There shall be an official bulletin of the Region to be known as "**The Local**", publication of which shall be at least four (4) times annually.

B. The Local shall carry notice of all Region meetings and other items of interest to the membership. Publication of notices in "**The Local**" shall constitute official notice to the membership as required by the Bylaws.

ARTICLE III: Membership Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Region shall be at the Fall Convention

unless otherwise designated by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting is open to all members at no cost. (8/04)

Section 2. Special Meetings

A Special Meeting shall be any meeting called as hereinafter provided for the purpose of considering any particular or special business. Only such particular or special business may be considered at a Special Meeting. Upon their own motion, or upon the petition of ten percent (10%) of the members of this Region, but not less than twenty-five (25) such members, directed to them, the Board of Directors may call such Special Meetings as appear necessary. (8/04)

Section 3. Notification

The Secretary shall ensure that notices of the Annual Meeting or Special Meetings are sent to the members (or printed in the regional publication) at least 30 days prior to the date of such meeting. Announcement will be deemed sufficient notice when sent to the last address given to the office of the Region by the member. (11/97) (8/04)

Section 4. Quorum

At the Annual Meeting and at any Special meeting twenty-five (25) such members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (11/97)

Section 5. Rules

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the meetings in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of this Region. (11/97)

Section 6. Financial Responsibility

No individual, club, division or organization other than the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Inc., shall bear any loss from any event except when such event is held in conjunction with a National Meeting or held jointly with another National Model Railroad Association Region, providing that the event is properly contracted in accordance with the Mid-Eastern Region Executive Handbook. (11/97)

ARTICLE IV: Elections, Eligibility, Nominations and Ballots (8/04)

Section 1. Elections

A. All Officers and Directors of this Region shall be elected for two (2) year terms. Elections shall be held annually with the three (3) Directors-at-Large elected on the **ODD** numbered years and the four (4) Officers elected on the **EVEN** numbered years. They shall take office at the close of old business at the Annual Meeting following their election and shall hold the office for two (2) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified. (11/97)

B. No two Offices listed in ARTICLE VI, Section 1., A., may be held by the same person, nor may the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer hold the position of Business Manager, except as may be required on a temporary basis. If a member of the Board is elected to another position and still have an unexpired term, he shall resign his former position.

C. No Officer or Director may hold the same office for more

than two consecutive terms, except that the Office of Treasurer is limited to five consecutive terms. (3/01)

D. Any elected Officer may be removed from Office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting called for that purpose, upon written complaint to any Director of ten (10) or more regional members expressing misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance of Office.

E. The holder of any office listed in ARTICLE VI, Section 1., who, at the roll call of a meeting, is absent for the third consecutive time shall be considered as having resigned the office. If a valid written reason is on hand at this time, such action may be held in abeyance by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at this third consecutive meeting. Multiple meetings held on the same day or at the same conference shall, for attendance purposes, be considered one meeting. (9/87)

F. Any officer may be excused from attending a scheduled meeting by submitting reasons in writing to the President two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. Any combination of excused and unexcused absences resulting in three consecutive missed meetings shall be treated under ARTICLE IV, Section 1, E. (9/87)

G. If an officer resigns, dies or becomes incapacitated before the end of their term the President shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term, subject to the consent of a majority of the remaining Board of Directors. (3/01)

Section 2. Eligibility

Only a member of MER who resides within the boundaries of MER may run for or hold an office or appointed position for MER. Inasmuch as officers must reside within MER boundaries, any relocation outside of MER will be considered as automatically vacating the office.

Section 3. Nominations

A. A Nominating Committee consisting of a chairman and two (2) members shall be appointed by the President to examine and nominate candidates for Officers and Directors of the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc., and in conformance with policy, the nominations must have the approval of the nominee and be accompanied with a photograph and a statement of not more than 200 words. (3/01) These statements must be received by the committee by close of nominations for communication to all members. (8/04)

B. Nominations may also be made by petition, signed by at least twenty-five (25) members. Each petitioner must supply proof of membership. Such petition must include a signed statement from the nominee indicating his approval and listing his qualifications. Also included shall be a statement of not more than 200 words and a photograph to be printed in the Ballot Issue of **The Local** regional publication. (11/97)

C. Balloting shall be by mail. The ballot will be designed to deter fraudulent duplication. (3/01)

D. The Ballot Committee shall report the results of the election in writing to the President, and the Director assigned to the committee. (11/97) (8/04)

E. Candidates receiving a simple plurality of votes shall be declared elected.

F. A schedule for nominations, petitions, ballot and election results may be found in Policies, ARTICLE VI. (11/97)

G. The Ballot Committee shall also mail and tabulate any special mail ballots as authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. NMRA Director Deleted (8/04)

ARTICLE V: Officers

General: All Officers must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and be eligible for bonding as may be required by the Board of Directors. In addition, the President must have served at least one full term in some ELECTED office of the Region Board of Directors, previously. (3/01) All officers must reside within MER boundaries. (8/04)

Section 1. The President

The President shall perform the usual duties of President and shall preside at all meetings. The President shall appoint or change the Chairs of all committees with the exception of the Regional Achievement Program Chair. The President shall submit a report of the Region's activities for the year at the Annual Meeting. The President or his designee shall represent the MER on the Regional Advisory Council of the NMRA. (3/01) (8/04)

Section 2. The Vice President

The Vice President shall be an aide and assistant to the President in any way possible and shall assume the duties of the Office of the President during his absence or upon his request. The Vice President shall represent the Divisions at the Board of Directors meetings. (3/01)

Section 3. The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all official meetings, shall sign, countersign or attest all official papers of the Region, and perform the usual duties of a Secretary. The secretary shall be responsible for the records and legal documents of the Region except for the membership and financial records. Other duties include being responsible for the maintenance, updating and distribution of the change pages of the Executive Handbook. The secretary shall be responsible for general communications and correspondence for the Region and shall see that proper notice is given of meetings as directed by the President and shall provide for general communication for the Board of Directors and Advisory Council to be sent as necessary. (3/01)

Section 4. The Treasurer

A. Shall keep a record of all funds received and paid out by the Region. Shall submit a Financial Report to the President and other reports as requested at each board meeting. The treasurer shall balance the books prior to the Annual Meeting and present a Financial Statement thereof in writing at the Annual Meeting. (3/01)

B. Shall ensure that all money is deposited promptly in accounts maintained for that purpose in convenient banks; all accounts shall be joint requiring a single signature of the Treasurer, President or Secretary. (8/04)

C. Shall see that the proper signatures are placed on all accounts with each change in administration promptly.

D. Shall pay immediately all vouchers from the various com-

continued on page 6

mittee chairmen up to the budgeted amount. All vouchers beyond this must have approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. *The Director*

A. Shall be responsible for the activities of the Standing Committees assigned by the President and shall present a consolidated report of their activities in writing at the Annual Meeting. (3/01)

B. Shall assume whatever other duties as may be assigned to each by the President.

ARTICLE VI: *Board of Directors*

Section 1.

A. The Board of Directors of the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc., shall consist of the four (4) Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the three (3) Directors at Large. (1/90) (8/04)

B. The order of presidential succession shall follow the order as set forth in Section 1., A. in this ARTICLE. The directors succession order shall be based on their plurality in the last election.

C. Deleted (3/01) (8/04)

D. In the event of a vacancy on the Board not covered by (A) or (B), the President will, with the approval of the Board, appoint a replacement to fill out the vacated term. (8/04)

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall hold the legal title of all property and monies of the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc., in trust for its members. Each BOD member shall be required to submit an annual budget by collaborating with the committees they are managing in order to regulate future Treasurer's payments. They shall forward their requests to the Budget Committee Chair by a date decided by the Treasurer. (3/01) (8/04)

Section 3. There shall be at least two (2) meetings per year of the Board of Directors of the Region. These meetings shall be held at such time and place as directed by the President. Upon petition of any three (3) members of the Board of Directors, additional meetings of the Board may be called as necessary, or to fix the date and time of a meeting in the event the President fails to do so. (11/97)

Section 4. Only those listed in ARTICLE VI, Section 1., A., shall vote on actions taken by the Board of Directors. (1/90) (8/04)

Section 5. No Officer or Director, shall receive any compensation or gratuities for his services, except that the President may receive a complimentary room during MER conventions. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, reimbursements for transportation, lodging and incidentals when incurred on official Mid-Eastern Region business may be authorized. (11/97) (8/04)

Section 6. No Officer or Director shall chair any standing committee except as may be required on a temporary basis. (3/01)

Section 7. No Officer or Director shall participate in any business associations or any decision-making actions of the Board from which they or any family members would profit personally.

Section 8.

There shall be an official publication of the Region known as the "MER Executive Handbook" which will contain a copy of the MER vital records, the Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) statement, operating procedures, and all MER policy statements. The MER Executive Handbook shall be issued to each Officer and Director and is to be used by them as the guidelines for the administration and operation of the Region. Each Officer and Director shall be responsible for turning over the MER Executive Handbook to their elective successor to that office. (11/97)

ARTICLE VII: *Business Manager*

Section 1.

A. A Business Manager shall be appointed by the President with the concurrence of a majority of the Board of Directors. The Business Manager shall sit on the MER Board of Directors as a non-voting member and shall receive and dispense counsel on all matters relating to the operation of the business office. (3/01)

B. The Business Manager shall maintain such membership records as required for reporting purposes, subscriptions to **The Local**, etc. Funds received will be deposited on a timely basis. (3/01) (8/04)

C. The Business Manager shall submit a budget to operate the office prior to a date established by the Treasurer. (3/01) (8/04)

D. The Business Manager shall perform other duties as may be directed by the President. (3/01)

E. This position will not be considered for purposes of a quorum, succession, or asset trust of the MER. (11/97)

F. The Business Manager shall receive no compensation or gratuities for his/her services. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, reimbursements for transportation, lodging and incidentals when incurred on official Mid-Eastern Region business may be authorized. (11/97)

ARTICLE VIII: *Standing Committees*

Section 1. *Committees*

Standing Committees are those permanent committees that carry out the normal operations of the Region. They will be established by the BOD and listed in Policy Section IX. (3/01)

Section 2. *Chairs*

A. Committee Chairs shall be resident members of the MER. Committee Chairs are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the MER President. Each appointment will be approved by the Board. As with the officers noted above, relocation outside of MER boundaries shall be considered automatic vacating of the position. (8/04)

B. The President will designate an elected official to whom the chairs will report. The chairs will file a written report of the yearly activities with the official prior to the Annual Meeting so that the designated official can report to the membership. The President may change committee chairs if he feels it to be in the best interests of the Region. (3/01)

C. Annually, the Budget Committee will be responsible for receiving operating budget requests and requests for special projects. They shall evaluate the requests and develop a sensible oper-

ating budget proposal and present it to the Board of Directors at their annual budget meeting. (11/97)

Section 3. *Audit Committee*

The President shall appoint an Audit Committee of two or more members. The committee will:

A. Conduct an audit of the Region's financial books and statements at least every two years or whenever there is a personnel change in the Office of the Treasurer.

B. When appropriate, recommend changes in the Region's financial practices and procedures.

C. Report the results of the foregoing work to the Board at the first Board meeting after the audit.

The following individuals may not serve on the Audit Committee: Board members, the Business Manager and anyone involved in investing the Region's money.

ARTICLE IX: *Special Committees*

Section 1. Any committee may be created by the President as the need arises, and will be known as a Special Committee.

Section 2. The appointed chair will report directly to the President as necessary. (3/01)

Section 3. A Special Committee will be disbanded upon completion of its duties or sooner at the direction of the President.

Section 4. Deleted. (11/97)

ARTICLE X: *Divisions*

Section 1. This Region may be subdivided into Divisions to facilitate the objectives of the Region. Divisions will be assigned numbers when chartered. (1/05). ARTICLE VIII, Section 8, of the NMRA Regulations describes how Region boundaries may be changed. (8/04)

Section 2. Divisions shall provide themselves with a set of Bylaws consistent with that of the NMRA and the Mid-Eastern Region. Divisions shall be free to conduct their own business in conformance with the purpose of this Region (ARTICLE I, Section 2) and be subject to the regulations set forth by the Board of Directors of the Mid-Eastern Region. Divisions may not perform in conflict with any action or principles of this Region, and any question regarding same will be determined by the Mid-Eastern Region Board of Directors. (11/97)

Section 3. A Division Superintendent shall be in charge of each division, with other officers being elected as required. The Superintendent and other Officers shall be elected by the members of the Division in which they reside, pursuant to the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Division.

Section 4. Division Superintendents are not voting members of the Mid-Eastern Region Board of Directors. (3/01) (8/04)

Section 5. All Officers and members of the Division shall be members of the National Model Railroad Association and the

Mid-Eastern Region. (11/97)

Section 6. The Division Superintendent shall submit a written financial and activities report of the Division to the Vice President prior to the Annual Meeting and shall keep **The Local** Editor informed of Divisional activities as they transpire. (8/04)

Section 7. When chartered, divisions will be assigned boundaries by the MER Board of Directors. (1/05)

Section 8. Divisions or interested groups of individuals may request changes in divisional boundaries via a letter to the MER Secretary. Proposals for change will be published in **The Local**. If no adverse comments are received in a period of time set by the MER Board, the MER Board of Directors will vote (yes or no) on the proposal. If adverse comments are received, an attempt will be made to poll the individuals affected by the change before the MER Board of Directors votes (yes or no) on the proposal. (1/05)

ARTICLE XI: *Advisory Council*

Section 1.

A. An Advisory Council to the Board of Directors shall consist of the immediate Past President, the Standing Committee chairs and other committee chairs as may be appointed by the President, the Business Manager and the Division Superintendents.

B. The Advisory Council may be called to meet in conjunction with the mandatory meetings of the Board of Directors at the direction of the President and at such other times as ordered by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII: *Amendments*

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at the Annual Meeting, at a Special Meeting called for such purpose, or by mail ballot authorized by the Board of Directors but any proposed amendments shall be submitted to the members with notice at least thirty (30) days before for such vote.

Section 2. Any notice to a member shall be deemed sufficient if sent to the last address given to the Business Office of this Region by such member. (3/01)

Section 3. Voting may be by proxy, provided, however, that such proxy notice shall be mailed directly to the Secretary by the person giving the proxy at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.

Section 4. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of any amendment.

ARTICLE XIII: *Dissolution (11/97)*

Dissolution of this Region shall occur whenever one of the following events occur:

A. A motion for dissolution is adopted in the same manner as is provided for the establishment of a Region as stated in the

continued on page 9

Improvements I Have Been Making Since I Converted My Railroad To Digital Command Control

By E. Winfield Gross

SINCE WRITING MY ARTICLE about converting my railroad to Digital Command Control, which was published in the January/February 2003 issue of **The Local**, I have made or I am doing many needed improvements to the railroad.

During the summer of 2003, I removed more unnecessary wiring and rebuilt two branch line panels with a track diagram showing the tracks and industries located on the branches. I made these new panels because removing the many block toggles from the panels left holes on the track lines. Originally, I had covered them with electrical tape and painted it to match the original board. But it wasn't really satisfactory.

The next big thing I did was what I called Railworks 03. Since I built my railroad years ago, it had a lot of old brass rail on it. Fortunately, some years ago I replaced the brass rail with nickel silver rail in all the hidden track areas but left the brass rail in the exposed portions of the layout. As part of Railworks 03, I removed that brass rail and replaced it with nickel silver. When I laid the track many years ago, I used Atlas fiber tie strip which came in 25 foot rolls and spiked the rail to it on Tru-Scale wood roadbed. I removed the spikes from one side of the brass rail, took the rail out, and then spiked down the new nickel silver rail. It worked pretty well. In fact, it reminded me of the way the prototype railroads renew their rail.

I replaced the rail because the DCC system works much better when the trains are running on the new nickel silver rail. The new rail needs painting, but that is a future chore. Of course, I had remarks from my Monday night group that I should paint the rail. When I gave them bottles of rail brown and paintbrushes, they changed their minds quickly, and that took care of that!

Since I got a "government grant" to make these improvements, I continued with many other projects that also needed doing. You know how those federal grants work. Use the money or lose it!

The next big job that I tackled during 2004 was to remove all the old brass turnouts in two of my towns. I replaced them with Peco Insulfrog turnouts, which eliminated all those dreaded rail gaps and allowed much easier operation. As long as I was receiving money from the grant for this project, I repaved all the streets and gave the towns a good house cleaning. Then I planted new grass and trees. Both towns look much better, and the track operates a whole lot better.

Next I renovated the engine terminal. I removed the old Suydam diesel house, the Suydam metal roundhouse, and finally the Geiger turntable. The turntable never worked correctly, and the engines continually derailed going onto or off the table. By removing the two buildings I gained a lot more storage tracks for the engines. I also replaced the brass track with new Atlas nickel silver track and Peco Insulfrog turnouts, eliminating more of the dreaded GAPS.

Next I replaced the old brass turnouts on the freight yard ladder. More gaps gone. The next project was to remove an old brass crossing. This is where the double-track main line crosses the single-track reverse loop. The Tru-Scale crossing was put in years ago and had at least 20 gaps in the rails. The crossing was controlled with a double-pole, double-throw toggle, which in turn activated two big relays installed under the crossing. When the toggle was thrown one way, it controlled the main line. When thrown the other way, it controlled the loop track. Of course, the operator or dispatcher would throw the toggle for the loop, and after a train went through, he would forget to throw the toggle back to the main and visa versa, creating an instant short when the next train went through the crossing. This project got rid of that problem plus the crossings are now Peco nickel silver. And no gaps are needed.

I also installed another Digitrax booster so I could make a second district on a long section of track on the railroad. This section now runs much better. One OCS 100 chief command unit and three DB 150 boosters now power the railroad. Everything seems to run fine, especially when 10 people are running trains on a Monday evening operating session.

Another thing I did was to make and hang signs above all the interlockings, the towns, and the crossing. These show the tracks, their numbers, and all the turnouts with their numbers. Now the operators know where their train is and can tell the dispatcher where they are if he doesn't know.

I even managed to do a small amount of scenery on different parts of the layout. I had been meaning to do this but never seemed to get around to doing it.

Now it is 2005, and I am making more improvements to the railroad. Originally, I had a large passenger station with six tracks and three platforms with roofs over them. The station now consists of two tracks and one platform with one track as a lead from the main line tracks. I have torn out the rest of the tracks and platforms. This area will become an industrial switching area in the future. I figured there is no use in paying taxes on something I do not use any more just like the real railroads. Gradually, I have eliminated most of the passenger cars and engines just like the prototype railroads did years ago. I now run only two short passenger trains of five or six cars from the station to a small station at the end of a branch. Over the last few years I sold off the excess passenger engines and cars at MER auctions and on eBay.

The big project on which I am now working is to install a new, smaller main control panel. The old panel is seven feet long. The new one will measure 28 inches and accommodate the necessary track diagram and turnout controls. The new panel is much easier to read and use because I eliminated a lot of excess wiring. Also, because the person working the freight

yard is in the same cramped space with the control panel, this project will make more room for the freight yardmaster to do his job and not interfere with the dispatcher. This project will take longer to complete because I have to move some wires, make a new support for the new panel, and then wire it. Fortunately, the wires go to a large terminal strip under the layout near the main control panel and make the changes fairly easy to do. When the new panel is completed, I will be able to remove and discard the old panel.

As you can see, I have been busy making all those improvements in the last two years. The main thing is I probably wouldn't have done all of it if I hadn't converted the railroad to DCC. 

Letters

Dear Members:

Thanks for all the cards and prayers sent my way while I have been ill. For a while there, I wasn't sure I would ever walk again—thanks to God I am starting to walk.

See you at the Raleigh convention in October!

Rita Lynam

A Request

Hello, my name is Paul Hutchins, and I am looking for someone to share a room at the NMRA Convention this year in Cincinnati. You may e-mail me at FF3HUTCH@aol.com or reach me on my cell 240-299-9963 Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM. Any questions, please contact me.

Paul Hutchins 

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Mid-Eastern Bylaws continued

NMRA Constitution.

B. Whenever a twelve-month period has elapsed and no meetings of the Region Board of Directors, or Annual or Special Meeting have been held.

C. The NMRA withdraws the rights of the Region to function.

Upon dissolution of this Region, the last elected officers and directors shall wind up the affairs of the Corporation within one month of the dissolution and shall promptly make payment of all liabilities of the Region and forward the remaining assets of the Corporation exclusively to the NMRA. Disposition of the assets shall be such so that no member of the Region shall receive any of the assets. However, if the named recipient is not then in existence or is no longer a qualified distributee, or is unwilling or unable to accept the distribution, then the assets of the Corporation shall be distributed to a fund, foundation or Corporation organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

The End 

Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Inc. Statement of Financial Condition

(as of December 31, 2004)

<u>Item</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
<i>Assets</i> (excluding inventories)	
• High Point Bank Checking Account	\$ 11,447.59
• High Point Bank Money Market Account	7,237.76
• High Point Bank 9 month CD matures 7/05	11,989.72
• High Point Bank 12 month CD matures 1/06	<u>44,294.71</u>
Total Assets	\$ 72,943.98
<i>Liabilities</i>	\$ 0.00
<i>Net Assets</i> (excluding inventories)	\$ 72,943.98
Breakdown of Net Assets	
<i>Restricted Assets</i>	
• Life Member Fund	\$ 44,294.71
• Pre-Paid Dues	1,845.35
<i>Assets restricted by Board of Directors</i>	
• Car Sales Fund	1,987.29
• Donation Fund	1,457.75
• Unrestricted Assets	<u>25,204.23</u>
Total Net Assets	\$ 72,943.98

The Life Member Fund covers our liability to provide services to our Life Members. It consists of fees paid by Life Members and interest earned on that money. Pre-Paid Dues are those collected in prior years and held for use in the designated years.

The Car Sales Fund is a revolving fund for the car kits we sell. Proceeds from the cars sold are used to buy new cars. Surplus proceeds may be used for purposes designated by the Board of Directors (BOD). This year the BOD has directed that \$1,800 be transferred to the Operating Budget in lieu of considering an increase in member dues.

The Donation Fund collects the donations made by members and other donors. Since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, these donations are tax deductible. The BOD may direct the use of these funds for special projects.

Ronald G. Schmidt
MER Treasurer 

Time to Retire

WHEN I TOOK ON THE JOB of editor of **The Local** at the end of 2001, I told then president Norm Garner that it was for a year at a time. To be honest, I didn't know if I was up to the job. I guess I was, because I'm still doing it. But now it's time for me to pass the baton to someone else. The job of editor isn't all that difficult. Mainly, I proofread and edit what you, the members of the MER, have sent to me for publication. But since editing, proofreading, and technical writing are a big part of my day-to-day job, doing the same thing when I'm away from work has begun to "get old." I've found that since taking on the position of editor, I've had precious little time for model railroading and advancing in the NMRA's Achievement Program. (Yes, Clint; I've put in my paperwork for Association Volunteer.) I will stay on as editor until the end of 2005 unless Clint finds someone to take my place sooner. I'll help my successor transition into the position.

I have to say that the staff of the MER has always been easy to work with (although sometimes one or two of them needed gentle reminders to get their columns to me by deadline). Julianne Smith, our publisher, has been an absolute joy. She's the one who makes our newsletter so appealing to the eye – especially if you get it electronically in living color. She makes my job easy and I can never thank her enough for all her hard work.

So, since I'm announcing my retirement and asking for someone to whom I can pass the baton, I guess I ought to tell you a bit about what the job requirements are. Officially, from the MER executive handbook is this job description:

Position Description: Newspaper Editor: **The Local**

Appointed By: MER President

Reports To: Director assigned to oversee the publication

Position Summary: Responsible for preparing, editing and producing the Mid-Eastern Region's official publication, **The Local**, in accordance with the By-Laws.

Nature and Scope: The Newspaper Editor is required to publish a quality magazine at least four times per year within budgetary guidelines; solicit articles and photographs of general interest; acknowledge receipt of all information received; edit articles; provide typesetting, layout, and paste-up services; produce camera-ready copy; and ship the camera-ready copy and related artwork to the printer in a timely fashion.

The Local serves as an in-house publication and will contain all official articles of the organization and information of general interest to the membership. **The Local** must be presented as an image-building device for gaining membership and maintaining membership interest. The editor must exercise sound judgment and editorial expertise for producing a uniform and pleasing tone to the publication.

All issues of **The Local** production shall be so designated as to conform to budgetary restrictions.

Principal Accountabilities:

1. Keeps the director informed at all times.
2. Strives to come in at, or under budgeted amount each time.
3. Provides quality production.
4. Produces uniform quality and tone of the publication.
5. Acknowledges in writing (by post card) to the authors to confirm receipt of article(s) and indicates the anticipated edition date the article may appear in **The Local**.
6. Prepares an annual budget request to cover any anticipated expenses for the coming year.

A lot of the things in **Nature and Scope** are now taken care of by Julianne, since the editing and publishing duties have been split. While none of this job description mentions it, you really need an e-mail account. Which means, of course, that you have a computer. While not everyone who sends me items for **The Local** is "wired," most of it comes to me electronically. I send everything to Julianne via e-mail. You should have Microsoft Word on your PC. Personally, I dislike it, preferring to use WordPerfect at home and at work, but almost everything comes to me in a Word format. If you believe the hype, "The world runs on Word."

That's really about it. I've enjoyed being editor of **The Local**. It has given me insight into the operations of the MER and the process by which publications get put together. I'll still be around, but I just won't be the guardian against dangling participles or passive voice.

Alan

Other Positions Available

MER has two positions open:

- **Official Photographer** – (primarily you shoot model contest photos) and
- **Webmaster.**

Please contact Clint Hyde to apply, chyde@cox.net.

Still More on Transition: Elections, Membership and Dues

By Roger L. Cason, MMR
MER Trustee

THE LAST TWO ISSUES of **The Local** included some information on our transition to the new NMRA Regulations. Here's more.

ELECTIONS

By the time you read this, you should have received your February **Scale Rails/NMRA Bulletin**. It includes a ballot for the initial nine NMRA Directors. Long range, terms will be for three years, with one third of the board elected each year. At the midyear NMRA Board meeting, lots were drawn to see which positions would be for initial one year terms, which for two years, and which for three years. As an NMRA member living within the MER, you will vote on three of these: one from the Eastern District (one year term), one North American at large (two years), and one World Wide at large (also two years). **I urge you to take a few minutes, read the candidate statements, and then vote.**

MEMBERSHIP

In the foregoing paragraph, note that I did not say "MER members." From now on, the best way to describe ourselves is "NMRA members living within the boundaries of the MER." The same line of reasoning applies to divisions. You are an NMRA member if you pay dues. And, in general, each NMRA member is automatically a member of the region, if one exists, and of the division, if one exists, in whose territory the member resides.

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Currently, each NMRA member receives two publications bound together as one:

- **Scale Rails** – contains articles of general modeling interest.
- **NMRA Bulletin** – contains information largely internal to NMRA such as recent AP awards.

At some point in the near future, dues renewal notices from NMRA will probably read:

- Member - \$33 (to include an available electronic copy of the NMRA Bulletin)
- Family Member - \$7
- Student member - \$24
- Optional subscription to mailed paper copy of **Scale Rails** (including the **NMRA Bulletin**) - \$12

National Life Members have already paid for their membership including the publication, and will automatically receive **Scale Rails** without paying the extra \$12.

Note that Member plus **Scale Rails** adds up to \$45, which is what we've been paying in the immediate past. The cost to create, print, and mail **Scale Rails** (net of advertising income) is about \$12 per recipient. Also note that this is one aspect of the general

trend within all levels of NMRA to separate cost of membership from the cost of receiving a mailed, paper copy of a publication.

The following is an abbreviated version of a member's rights, based on the new NMRA Regulations and Board of Trustees decisions:

- Participate in all NMRA activities, including those organized by any region or division.
- Receive an electronic copy of the NMRA Bulletin.
- Vote and run for an elective office in the region or division in which the Member resides (does not apply to Family Members).
- Participate in and benefit from programs at the national, regional, and divisional level (for example, the Achievement Program).
- Obtain merchandise and premiums offered exclusively to NMRA members at a discounted cost if they are also offered to the general public.
- Participate in contests.
- Be protected by event liability insurance offered by national for qualifying NMRA events.
- To have access as a member to the Kalmbach Memorial Library.
- To be considered for and receive recognition through special awards.
- To petition and seek referendum of issues and decisions.

ARTICLE VI, Section 2 of the Regulations spells these out in much more detail. In some cases, user fees may be charged by the sponsoring organization (probable examples: regional convention attendance, mailed subscription to the regional newsletter).

MER and Divisional Dues and Subscriptions

Starting on September 1, 2005, the MER and its divisions will no longer charge dues per se. However, as stated above, they may charge for subscriptions and other services.

In particular, the MER plans to charge \$6 per year for a subscription to mail paper copies of **The Local**, the MER newsletter. Members who do not subscribe may receive an e-mail copy (writer's comment: you get it a lot quicker via e-mail!). Regional Life Members will continue to have a subscription to a paper copy of **The Local**. However, they will have the opportunity to, and are encouraged to, receive **The Local** via e-mail. A proposal is under study to add a line to the national dues renewal notice to cover subscriptions to regional newsletters. It may or may not happen.

At this time, there are no plans to have the national dues notice cover anything directly for divisions. Thus, divisions wanting to

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charge for their newsletter must collect this on their own – as they do now.

REGIONAL ALLOCATION

In lieu of dues directly collected, each region will receive an allocation of money for each NMRA member residing within its boundaries. Initially, this will be \$2 per member per year. Each region will be responsible for transferring an appropriate portion of this to its divisions.

NMRA MEMBERSHIP DATA BASE

A few bugs and glitches may surface as we implement all this. I'm asking you to be patient. Here's why. Mike Brestel, NMRA Vice President, is leading a group of people who will replace the current headquarters database with something better. Here's Mike's own description of the situation:

"You may have heard that we have gigantic problems with the old data base. The sort process was a conglomeration of forced sorts, patches, exceptions, and other temporary fixes that were

added to the database over a number of years. The problem came to a head when the USPS required us to move to ZIP+4 for every U.S. member. The temporary fixes that enabled us to muddle along for a number of years brought the system to grinding halt when ZIP+4's were added. The long term solution is a brand new database, which we are currently working on and plan to have in operation by the end of this fiscal year (8/31/05)."

In other words, have patience! Better days are coming.

Your Thoughts, Please!

When you have a model railroading question or problem, you don't write a letter to headquarters. You probably get advice from your network of friends, many of whom you know through your division and region. This leads to the thought that divisions and regions are the heart of NMRA, which leads to the question: **What can/should/could NMRA be doing to help and strengthen its divisions and regions? I would really appreciate hearing your thoughts on this. You will find my contact information elsewhere in this issue.** 

Stop Those Rolling Cars

By Ron Baile

MANY OF US tend to try and use every square inch of the available bench work to lay sidings and spurs. We all know that on an operating railroad, you can never have too much staging, and you can never have too many sidings. I'd like to address the siding issue. Sometimes we manage to shoehorn a siding into an area that perhaps we shouldn't have. I'm talking about the ones that are built on a slight grade. No, it's not just the boneheads like me that do it; I've seen slanted sidings on some of the best model railroads that I have visited.

It's all in how you deal with the slope. The real railroads often spot a car and wedge a piece of two by four between the wheel and rail. This may not sound like much but it usually does the job of preventing the car from rolling. I believe that it would be quite difficult to duplicate this, as you can't really scale down weight, inertia, and gravity. The weight of the car just wouldn't be enough to keep a scale piece of lumber wedged between rail and wheel.

If it's not too steep a grade, you could model a working derail. The car could just butt up against it to prevent it from rolling. The ones that Sequoia and Alexander make can, with a lot of patience, be made to work. I've seen stiff brush bristles (wallpaper brush bristle works nicely) glued into a hole between the ties, protruding just above axle level. This hangs

up on the axle and prevents the car from rolling while it allows powered trains to pass through. Bill Gruber uses a little mechanical wheel stop that appears to be about a quarter-inch-long piece of brass tubing with a lateral slit in it with a short brass rod "handle" soldered to it. It just kind of clips to the rail and keeps cars from rolling down the embankment. Painted yellow, they are easy to see.

Some people use a manual anti-gravity device that consists of a brass rod attached to a bell crank (shim brass, piece of tin can, hardboard, etc) that changes the direction of the thrust. These are fairly simple to make and have been covered in the model press on several occasions. Some years ago on the Gateway Model RR Club layout, I installed what I referred to as the GAD or Gateway Anti-gravity Device. It was simply a switch machine mounted on a wooden bracket in such a manner that the rod went up and down through a piece of brass tubing force-fitted in a hole through the roadbed. If you try this, be careful not to make the rod too long or you may put a car in orbit. This can then be activated electrically, thus adding flexibility to the original idea. Just don't forget to add some sort of flashing LED or other warning device to let your operators know that the thing is activated. The politicians can repeal a lot of old laws, but they can never repeal the law of gravity. 

**National Model Railroad Association
Mid-Eastern Region
2005 Annual Convention**

October 27 – 30, 2005
Embassy Suites Hotel,
Cary, North Carolina



Hosted by the Carolina Piedmont Division

Make plans to join us in North Carolina for a fantastic model railroading weekend!

Visit area model railroad layouts

- More than 25 layouts will be open for self guided tours over three days – from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon
- Most scales represented – N, HO, O, G, live steam and garden railway

Increase your knowledge and skills

- Three days of clinics on various topics and “how to” presented by experienced model railroaders
- Extra fare clinics planned – DCC, scratch building, weathering

Enter a contest

- NMRA sanctioned model and photo contests with awards presented at the Saturday evening banquet

Tour the North Carolina Transportation Museum

- Ride on “The Piedmont”, a passenger train operated by the North Carolina DOT, to Salisbury, NC
- Visit the North Carolina Transportation Museum at the Southern Railway’s Historic Spencer Shops

Go on a prototype tour (tentative opportunities – subject to availability)

- New Hope Valley Railway – Eastern NC Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society
- North Carolina DOT rail yard or the Norfolk Southern Glenwood Yard

Attend a special event

- Saturday evening night banquet and awards presentation
- Operating sessions on layouts
- Model train show on Saturday and Sunday

Go here for convention information

- Website: www.trainweb.org/cpd13/mer05

Hotel information

Embassy Suites Hotel
Raleigh-Durham-Research Triangle East
201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard
Cary, North Carolina 27513
Phone: 919-677-1840
Toll-Free: 1-800-EMBASSY
www.embassysuitesraleighdurham.com

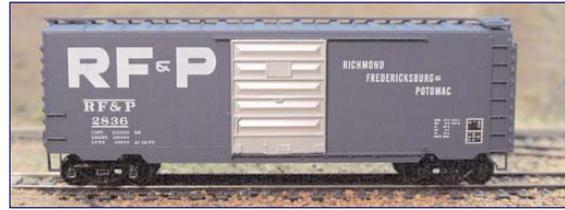
Convention rate: \$ 89.00

SUPPORT YOUR NMRA REGION AND PURCHASE THESE GREAT PRODUCTS FROM MER

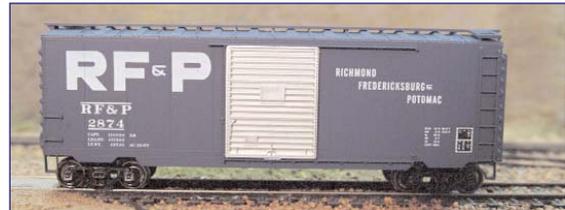


COURTESY OF THE FREIGHT YARD

These 40' Western Maryland box cars are Micro-Train bodies custom painted by The Freight Yard. They are box car red with prominent white "speed lettering"



P.L. MATTHEWSON (2)



These 40' RF&P PS-1 box cars are Accurail bodies, custom painted by Accurail. They are blue with aluminum-colored doors, and feature prominent white lettering.



This HO-scale building kit is designed around E.L. Moore's "Bunn's Seed & Feed" building which appeared in the 8/73 issue of Model Railroader. The kit features laser cut wood components as well as other parts and castings.

MER N-SCALE CARS	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE*	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#29290	_____	\$19.95	\$23.95	\$_____
#29299	_____	\$19.95	\$23.95	\$_____
Shipping \$2.50 for first car, + \$1.50 for each additional car				\$_____

MER HO-SCALE CARS	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE*	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#2836	_____	\$11.95	\$14.95	\$_____
#2874	_____	\$11.95	\$14.95	\$_____
Shipping: \$2.00 for each car (not for each order)				\$_____

* Please list your MER Membership # _____

MER CLOTH PATCH**	QUANTITY _____	\$3.00 including S&H	\$_____
MER LAPEL PIN/TIE TACK**	QUANTITY _____	\$6.00 including S&H	\$_____
MER STRUCTURE KIT** — ("Bunn Seed & Feed")	QUANTITY _____	\$75.00 postpaid	\$_____
THE Locals** — (all issues 1997-2004) on CD	QUANTITY _____	\$5.00 postpaid	\$_____
** Only available to MER members.			
DONATION			\$_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MID-EASTERN REGION

Ship to:
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to:
THE MID-EASTERN REGION, INC.
9 Roosevelt Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19804-3044

Calling All MER Members!

Don't forget about Independence Junction (<http://www.ij2006.org/>), the NMRA's 2006 National Convention. The Mid-Eastern Region will host it July 2 to July 9, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA. There is a great need for volunteers to help at the convention. If you would like to help out, go to <http://www.ij2006.org/volunteer.html> and fill out the volunteer survey form. Be a part of this amazing event! It could get better with your help! Not only will you get great satisfaction from participating, you'll also qualify for AP Volunteer points. 

Achievement Program Update

By *Charlie Flichman*
MER AP Manager

Since the last report in **The Local**, the following Achievement Program certificates were earned and awarded:

Division 2 - Potomac

J. Douglas Kirkpatrick – Structures
Robert Minnis – Association Official
William R. Roman – Association Official
Marc Sisk – Association Volunteer

Division 3 - Philadelphia

Richard Newmiller – Cars
Richard Newmiller – Structures

Division 13 – Carolina Piedmont

Gene Sing – Association Volunteer

In a perfect world, this information will appear soon in **Scale Rails**. This should not deter you from giving recognition locally. Normally you will be able to recognize AP accomplishments long before the names appear in **Scale Rails**. 

British Railway Modelling

by Warners Group Publications

Reviewed by Nicholas Kalis

HAVE TAKEN the extraordinary step of reviewing a periodical because many of our region's members would enjoy **British Railway Modelling**. Ordinarily, foreign model railroad magazines, even those in English, hold little attraction for American modelers. **British Railway Modelling** (this is how they spell it across the Atlantic) should prove an exception. If modeling portable or smaller layouts, urban scenes, or British Isles prototypes interests you, this magazine will inspire. The profusely illustrated BRM covers a wide range of layout, prototype, and construction topics. I actually was fooled by several model photographs, which appeared to be of the prototype.

As Paul Dolkos has written elsewhere, you will quickly notice model railroading is enjoyed in England a bit differently than here in the United States. British modelers focus more on bringing portable layouts to meets where fellow modelers and the general public are treated to wonderfully detailed operational small vignettes. As a consequence, British layouts are often smaller than those in the States and meant to be viewed in a venue other than the private home. I like this approach, as it tends to give armchair modelers less of an excuse to remain on the sidelines. I also love the quality emanating from not biting off more than a modeler can chew. My February issue, BRM's biggest ever with 188 pages, actually arrived by the second day of the month, so timeliness is no problem. Try BRM for a year and see how you like it. Worldwide Airmail subscriptions are £55 (about US\$103). For a subscription, email Warners Group Publications plc at subscriptions@warnersgroup.co.uk, or use your credit card with a signature and expiration date to get the best exchange rate by writing to BRM Sales, Warners Group Publications, West Street, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH ENGLAND. Or order online at www.brmodelling.co.uk. 



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