

Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division,
Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association



November 2024

Volume 35 Number 2

Joint Meet with the Philadelphia Division

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

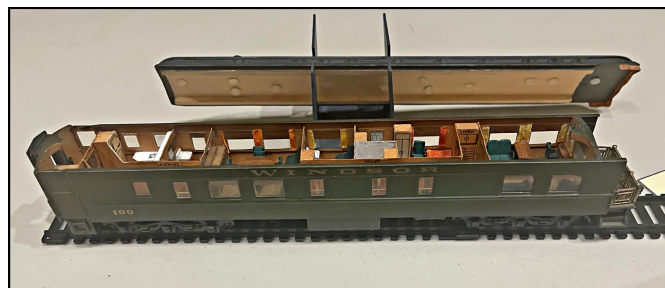
On November 9, 2024, we will meet in Delaware for a joint meet with the Philadelphia Division. Each division will present a clinic and there will be the traditional activities of displays, contests, and lots of good talk.

One of the positive features of being located near other divisions of the NMRA includes the opportunity to have joint meets with our friends. In northern Delaware, members of the Philadelphia Division open their homes for our enjoyment and opportunities to see their modeling skills. Besides the greater Philadelphia area, the Philadelphia Division includes the entire state of Delaware.

The meet location is in a standalone building in the parking lot apart from the stores and is surrounded by ponds.

**Brandywine Town Center
4050 Brandywine Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19803.**

It is worth the trip to the Wilmington area. See you there and I request that you wear your NJ Division name tags. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and the meet begins at 9 a.m.



**September Favorite Model Display was
Herb Gishlick's Observation Car.**

Next Division Meet
Saturday November 9, 2024
9 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Brandywine Town Center
4050 Brandywine Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19803

Model Display News
Steam Engine

Clinics:

Joe Walters, MMR
HO model of a rail based
ballast tamper.
Barry Rosier
Computer Aided Design

In This Issue

November Meet	1
NJD Information Page	2
View From The Cab	3
Model Display News	5
Switching Back	6
3D Roundhouse Construction	7
Clinics	8
Gondola Sale	9
Golden Spike Appl. Form	10

Train Orders

Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Division. NMRA
P.O. Box 276
Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276
<https://njdivnmra.org>

Train Orders is published 5 times per year for the NMRA members and friends of the New Jersey Division. Online newsletters are always available at the NJ Division website.

Mailed hardcopy newsletter is \$20.00 per year.

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in Train Orders in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

Train Orders welcomes contributions from the New Jersey Division membership. Letters, articles, photos and other items may be submitted to the editor, Fritz Plenefisch, at fplen3@verizon.net or to 327 Sharps Lane, Hamilton, NJ 08610-1334. Please include return postage if you would like materials returned.

Cutoff Date for submittal to the December issue is TBD.

Items received after this date may appear in the next issue

Superintendent and Director of Clinics
John Gallagher
njdiv.super@gmail.com
856 228-2239

Assistant Superintendent, Bookstore and Door Prizes
Mike Prokop
njwrr@aol.com
609 610-2687

Clerk/Secretary
Joe Zebrowski
609 268-9451
trackjack@comcast.net

Director-Contest Chair
Jack Menaker
732 908-6571
jackmenaker@yahoo.com

Director- Membership
Geert Marien
732 757-1061
geert@mindspring.com

Director
Thom Radice
732-713-5649
thomradice@gmail.com

Director-Editor
Fritz Plenefisch
609 585-7660
fplen3@verizon.net

Director- AP Chair
Glyn Thomas, MMR
856 467-0421
glynthomas42@gmail.com

Paymaster/Treasurer
Tom Neukirchen
609 584-5184

Visit us at <https://njdivnmra.org> and join us on
Groups at <https://groups.io/g/NJDivNMRA>

NJD Information Page

**November Joint Division Meet
With the Philadelphia Division**
Saturday, November 9, 2024
Brandywine Town Center
4050 Brandywine Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19803

Next Board Meeting
Host – Glyn Thomas
Saturday Nov 23 rd or Dec 7th, 2024, noon
Please let us know if you plan to attend
njdiv.super@gmail.com

January Meet
Date and location TBD

**Special N J Division
Summer Meet August 2025
at Switlik Park in Yardville**

**NJ Division Area
Hobby Shops**

* **AAA Hobbies & Crafts**
706 N. Whitehorse Pike,
Magnolia, NJ 08049
(856) 435-7645
www.AAAHobbiesandCrafts.com

* **Sattler's Hobby Shop**
14 Haddon Ave.
Westmont, NJ 08108
(856) 854-7136

* **The Train Room Online Store**
www.thetrainroomNJ.com
e-mail thetrainroomnj@msn.com

* **Yankee Dabbler - Track 33**
101 W. Kings Hwy, Bellmawr, NJ
08031

* **Offers discount to NMRA members.
Must show Current Membership Card**

Membership Information

Any person who is a member of the NMRA and lives within the boundaries of the NJ Division as defined by the NMRA is also a member of the division. Non member guests are welcome to attend three of our meets, after which they will be asked to join the NMRA.

NJ Division Annual Activity Fee:
\$10.00 (optional and includes 5 meets)
or individual meets \$5 at the door.

First time guests, no charge!

**National Model Railroad
Association P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328**

View From the Cab-Piedmont Junction 2024

John V. Gallagher, Superintendent

The 2024 Mid-Eastern Region Convention occurred in Durham, North Carolina October 17 – 20. Attendance exceeded 200 members from throughout the Mid-Eastern Region plus a small number of NMRA members from other regions and headquarters, NMRA. Three members from the New Jersey Division attended, Bill Howard, Rick Stoneking, and me. The distance from my home in Gloucester County was about 415 miles with the GPS estimating a non-stop time of about 6 hours, 30 minutes? Well, my old kidneys won't last that long and the 24 MPG my truck gets meant at least one refill on the way. I don't like driving with less than a half tank in unknown geography. The trip took over 7 hours including stops and a gourmet meal at McDonalds. Of course, getting around Washington, DC added to the trip. Good news is I arrived safely and found a parking space in the first row from the hotel entrance. Second good news, is that I got a room on the ground floor, a few steps from the registration desk and lobby [and the bar!]

Friday began with my scheduled presentation of my clinic on Economics in Model Railroad Design at 8AM. About 35 attended – I almost ran out of my handout – and I received positive feedback. The convention program displayed three choices of clinics per hour with one being a hands-on clinic of various modeling techniques and models produced. During the convention, members could go to nearby model railroads for visits, a variety of operation sessions, and some prototype rides or displays. One option afforded a member the opportunity to operate a prototype locomotive for 30 minutes or one hour. These were expensive options but, hey, you only live once! It could improve your model operating skills

when you learn that each coupling and uncoupling and change of direction takes time. What's the hurry, especially when you must operate SAFELY?

Besides clinics, with a number of them that I wanted to attend, and, of course, were scheduled at the same time, other opportunities occurred. A circus display of about 20 feet long, in HO scale, caused one to study the exceptional details of each tent. There must have been over 500 human figures plus many animals found at a circus. One room contained a nice T-TRAK modular layout in N scale. It filled the room. Motive power included DCC and sound.

The "Company Store" provided opportunities to purchase models of locomotives, rolling stock, track, scenery materials, electronics, books, structures, etc. In some cases, some items used auction bidding and others asked a flat price for sale. In addition, some items required ticket raffles. I heard that members had a choice of over 400 items. For an O scale modeler, the options were slim. I won NO raffle items.

However, the New Jersey Division did participate. I brought 15 of our NJDX gondola cars for sale at \$23 each and sold 4! I will bring back the remaining cars. Only the 2018 car number cars are left.

Some clinics I attended provided important information. One on Vallejo paints for painting and weathering informed members of specific application techniques. Joe Walters, Philadelphia Division Superintendent, described how he scratch built a critter switching locomotive that has a prototype. I am curious about LCC. I attended a clinic on the system, options, practices, and challenges of LCC. After the clinic, I departed with nothing learned [and I was awake for the

entire presentation]. I will try using Arduinos for my signaling.

The New Jersey Division annually presents an award for construction and detailing of a model of rolling stock from those on display in the contest. Formerly known as the Liberman Award, the board decided to change the name of the award. It is now the NJ Division Award for Excellence in Construction and Detailing. At the end of the citation, we will name a member, now deceased, who provided modeling leadership in construction and detailing in memorial. The current modeler honored is P.J. Mattson, MMR. NJ member Bill Howard and I inspected the models in the contest room and identified several for consideration. The winning model of a track laying and servicing machine was scratch built by Joe Walters. We decided that it stood apart from other models in our criteria. The award includes a framed citation and \$100 credit to a hobby shop, dealer, or manufacturer for use by the winner. Joe accepted the award with enthusiasm and thanks but donated the cash award back to the division. The award was presented at the convention banquet.

Overall, I enjoyed the convention. I met old friends and added new acquaintances where I learned much about modeling and serving in leadership in the division. Most MER divisions face similar challenges such as recruitment, retention, and how to serve our members better. I will bring back that knowledge to consider and discuss with the board and you.

Some recommendations you may consider if you want to attend a MER [or other] convention are:[1] Register early. As soon as the registration online page opens, register and pay the fee.

[2] If the hotel offers a reduced room rate make your reservation right away!

This convention stated that reduced-rate rooms must be reserved by a certain date. They should have stated "A limited number of rooms at a reduced rate are available to registrants, with reservations before "date." The convention rate was \$79 per night for 3 nights. The regular rate was about \$218 per night. Register before you reserve your room. The hotel may cross check.

[3] Communicate with members that you intend to attend the convention. Insurance regulations by NMRA discourage the division from officially organizing carpools but members can privately do it on a personal basis.

[4] The 2025 MER Convention, hosted by the Philadelphia Division, will take place King of Prussia, north of the city. Plan ahead. Offer to present a clinic. If you have connections with the prototype or other off-site rail based or other features, let us know.



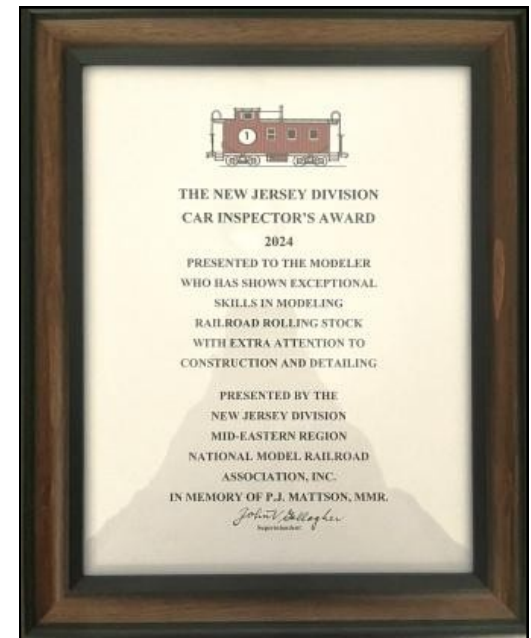
Joe Walters, MMR, scratch built the winning HO model of the rail based ballast tamper machine. The high number of details modeled plus the quality of construction and finish clearly met the specifications of the award and it stood apart from other models in the contest room."



New Jersey members John Gallagher [left] and Bill Howard [right] performed the judging of models in the contest room



NJD Superintendent John Gallagher presented the New Jersey Division 2024 Car Inspector's Award to Joe Walters, MMR at the of the Piedmont Junction Mid-Eastern Region Convention Banquet in Durham North Carolina on October 19, 2024. "



The new framed certificate of the New Jersey Division Car Inspector's Award, formerly the Liberman Award, now honors our deceased member P.J. Mattson, MMR who ran our Achievement Program.

Model Display News

By Jack Menaker, Model Display Chairman

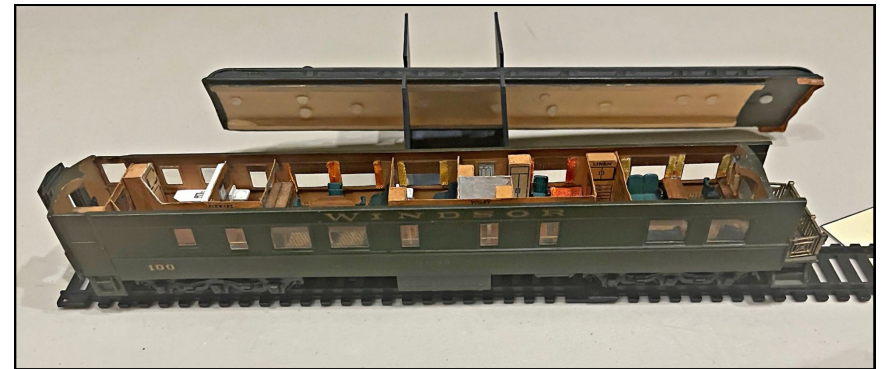
The winner of the Best in Show for the September 2024 Meet was Herb Gishlick and the subject was a PASSENGER CAR.

Herb gave me an in depth of the background and build of this project.

The model started as an old Walthers kit that Herb purchased in the late 50's. He also purchased the interior at the same time. He started building the car in the 70's, but just like all of us, the project was put on the side to work in other layout projects.

Later returned to the project in the 80's and added other details including brake system, inspection lights under the rear platform, additional interior details such as carpets, window shades, drapes, and veneer table tops.

As you can see from the picture, this project has been built and improved with the talents of a super modeler, Herb Gishlick.



The November Meet is in Delaware with the Pennsylvania Division

The subject will be a "STEAM ENGINE" It can be big, medium, small or tiny. It can have few wheels, lots of wheels, small wheels, or large wheels. **YOUR CHOICE**

The model that gets the most votes for the topic will get,

1 - a Framed Certificate and 2 - a Voucher to cover our yearly fee

The next display will be a Railroad Related Structure built from a kit.

We will be looking forward to the next display.

Jack Menaker, Model Display Chairman

PLEASE ASK ABOUT FUTURE JUDGING FOR THE GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD.




SWITCHING BACK

by Mike Prokop

Switching Back? No! I've not changed my mind about building a layout in "O" scale, On30 to be exact, as some of you who've visited my layout last March after the Division meet at Switlik Park in Hamilton have seen. I'm not going back to building an HO model railroad in my train room as I had before. The "Hill Valley" On30 railroad is alive and well and progress is being made all the time. Albeit, due to some recent health issues, the progress has been in the form of some physical progress consisting of roadbed and track laying but overtime some serious armchair and Imagineering effort has been accomplished.

Okay, so much for the quick update. So, what am I talking about Switching Back? Well, the term, actually Switchback, can be associated with most narrow gauge and back woods railroads means just that. In order to gain a significant elevation in a short amount of space, a series of back and forth switching motions gaining height is accomplished in kind of like a zig zag pattern across a hillside. See the photos below to get a really good visual of what a switch back is and what it accomplishes.

While designing my concept and track plan for my On30 Hill Valley narrow gauge railroad I wanted to incorporate a switch back for a few hopefully good reasons. First, a switch back is a natural feature of many prototype narrow gauge railroads and some standard gauge ones too such as the Cass Scenic Railroad in West Virginia. Secondly, it allows me to get the

trains of the Hill Valley up and down about a fifteen-inch height difference between two parts of the layout without a space robbing helix or a long constant grade to gain the elevation. Keep in mind, my intention of dismantling my HO layout the NJ&W was to downsize the layout and condense the square footage that I model in. Thus, I choose to go with On30 with a much smaller footprint than my HO railroad. There's a bunch of reasons I decided to go this route, but I won't get into that now. Additionally, a switch back provides an interesting element into the operations of the railroad that will present some unique challenges in the overall operations. Lastly, with the name of the railroad being the Hill Valley, I needed to have a section of the layout down in the "valley" and one representing the "hill"! The switch back I designed for the HVRR accomplishes my goals for not only scenic value but also interesting operational aspects. As I forge forward in building the HV and its switchback, I'll update my progress on this cool feature of my railroad but for now check out the photos on the right and keep in mind you'll be able to visit the HVRR after the March meet in Hamilton. Or, if you see me around at our division activities let's engage in some conversation about switchbacks and details of the one being put into operation on the Hill Valley Railroad. 

The Hill Valley RR switch back as being built on my On30 narrow gauge layout.



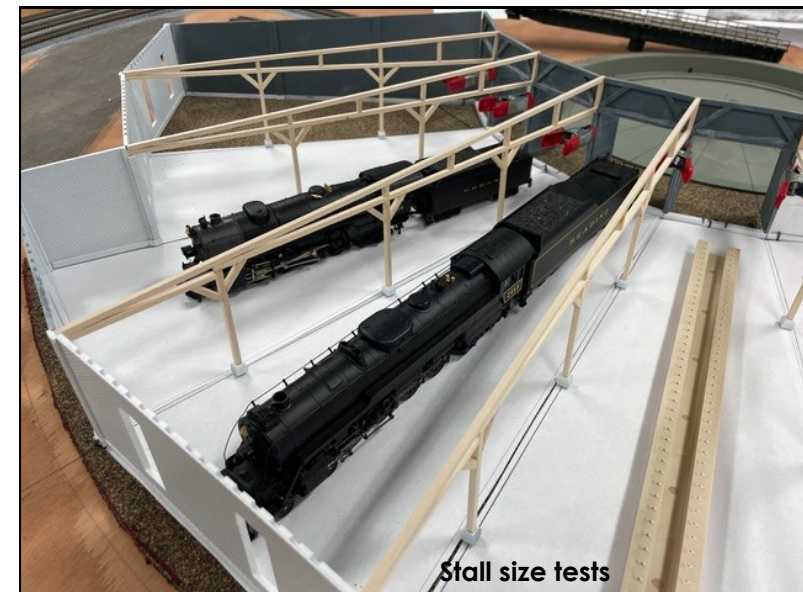
This photo shows an excellent example of a switch back. I took this picture while visiting a museum in Mount Union PA at the MER convention in Altoona. The excursion trip was to the East Broad Top railroad and a stop off at this facility where we saw an HOn3 EBT layout.



Garden State Central Model RR Club 3D Roundhouse Construction

By Thom Racine & Mike McNamara

This roundhouse represents the Scott St roundhouse of the Delaware & Hudson located in Wilkes Barre, PA. The roundhouse is long gone, and the location is now occupied by Central Clay Products. The model itself is made up of 3D printed front, rear, and side walls and stock-built trusses. The design has been modified from the original to fit the space and needs of the club.



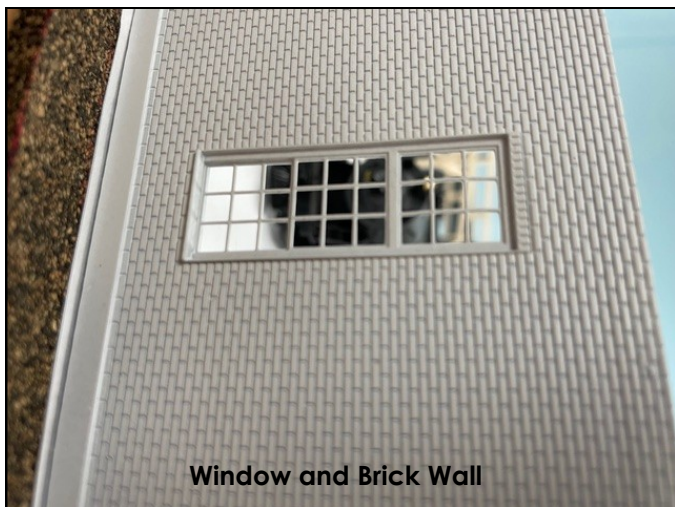
Clinics for the November Meet John V. Gallagher, Director of Clinics

Our joint meet with the Philadelphia Division includes two excellent clinics. Host Philadelphia Division's Superintendent Joe Walthers will offer a clinic on how he scratch-built an award-winning model of a ballast tamper railcar in HO scale. The unit, that falls under the Maintenance of Way category, won first place at the recent 2024 Mid-Eastern Region Convention in Durham, North Carolina. It also earned the New Jersey Division Car Inspector's Award for a model whose builder showed Exceptional Skills in Modeling Railroad Rolling Stock with Extra Attention to Construction and Detailing.

The second clinic will be presented by NJ Division member Barry Rosier who introduces us to CAD (Computer-Aided Design) for Structure Drawing along with the use of SKETCHUPFREE software for Structures.



Ralph Deblasi receives a certificate of appreciation for his two clinics at the September meet From NJD Superintendant John Gallagher.



Window and Brick Wall



Roundhouse with out roof and turntable



Rail based ballast tamper machine.

HOLLIDAY SALE EXTENDED

\$20 PER CAR! WHILE QUANTITIES LAST , ALL CARS ARE NOW PRICED AT \$20 PER CAR UNTIL SOLD OUT! MAIL ORDER OF CARS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BELOW POSTED SHIPPING RATES .

New Jersey Division 50th Anniversary Gondola

75th Anniversary Gondola

A review of the cars. They are \$35 each, or a set of two for \$65. Car numbers are 1968 and 2018, which was the year that the New Jersey Division was founded and the year we celebrated our 50th anniversary. The model is from Tangent Models and is a superb model of a 52'6" Riveted Drop End Gondola with 70 ton trucks. The placement of the brake wheel on the side is an identifying feature of a drop end Gondola. They're ready to run and come with Kadee couplers.

We acquired equal amounts of the two car numbers. Cash or check will consummate the deal and you'll be hauling stuff around your layout in no time!

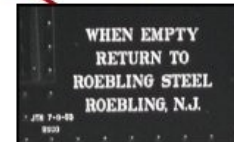
These are excellent looking and beautifully running cars, but, a car not decorated for a prototypical railroad, they do have the look of a gondola that you might see in any train consist from the 1930's to the 1980's.

To order cars Contact Mike Prokop at njwrr@aol.com or by mail use the Order Sheet. USPS

Priority Mail postage is: \$9 for one car and \$10.75 for two cars.



The Reporting Marks "NJDX" for this car identify the owner as the New Jersey Division and the "X" designates a Private or Non-railroad owner.



This Stencil indicates the Gondola is in Assigned Service to Roebing Steel. It must be returned to Roebing after its load has been delivered.

COME TO THE MARCH MEET TO PURCHASE THESE CARS WHILE QUANTITIES LAST. EVEN IF YOU ALREADY OWN A CAR OR TWO, THEY ARE EXCELLECT CARS TO ADD MORE TO YOUR MODEL RAILROAD. IT'S VERY EASY WITH A BLACK BODY TO PAINT OR BLANK OUT THE CAR NUMBER AND CHANGE IT SO IT WILL FIT IN WITH YOUR OPERATING FLEET OF GONDOLA CARS.

THIS SPECIAL SALE IS BEING OFFERED TO NMRA MEMBERS ONLY, NO DEALERS. WHILE QUANTITIES LAST! QUESTIONS- CONTACT MIKE PROKOP AT NJWRR@AOL.COM

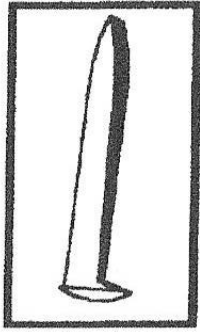
The car body is black with white lettering and data conforming to the 1950s

The cost is \$35.00 for one car or a set of both numbers for \$65.00

A check made payable to the NJ Division must be included with your order.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone _____

See Tangent website for more information
support@tangentscalemodels.com
Return this form to NJ Division NMRA;
PO Box 276, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0276



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM APRIL 2019

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR DIVISION OR REGION AP MANAGER

Member Name: _____ NMRA#: _____ Expiration: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Province: _____ Country: _____ Zip/Post Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____ Division: _____

- The Golden Spike Award (GSA) will be awarded to any NMRA member who completes the Qualifications Checklist, obtains the necessary signatures (Division AP Manager or some local NMRA member approved by the Division AP Manager), and if the applicant does not already hold MMR status.
- The GSA will be administered by the Division and Region AP Managers.
- AP requirements and definitions apply for scratch building and super-detailing.
- The Division AP Manager will submit the signed form to the Region AP Manager who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.
- The Region AP Manager will then forward the completed form to the National AP Manager so that an announcement can be made in the NMRA Magazine.

GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

- Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

- Construct a minimum of eight square feet of model railroad or module(s) including scenery in any scale.
- Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or superdetailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.

3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)

- Three types of track are required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial track may be used.
- All installed track must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously (e.g. double track main, single track main with sidings, and block or command or other form of control).
- Provide any one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Region AP Manager: _____ Region: _____