



THE GOAT

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TRAIN SHOWS

The *Train Season* is officially open! Most everyone has returned from summer vacations, kids and grandkids have headed back to school and it is time for us to resume work on our layouts where we left off. As the *Train Season* begins, we have a couple of shows on the near horizon.

The 34th **Train Show & Swap Meet** will be held on Sunday, September 15th, at the **Big Sky High School**, 3100 South Ave., West, in Missoula, MT. The show will run from 10 a.p. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3.00 for visitors 16 and over; those 15 years and under are free. For more information call Mike or Elaine Brown at 406-543-6123 or email show@missoulamodelrail.org.

The **Fall Model Train Show** will be at the **Spokane County Fair and Expo Center** on Sunday, October 13th, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Train Show is co-sponsored by **River City Modelers** and the **Inland Northwest Rail Museum**. Admission is \$6.00 for adults 17 & over, \$3.00 for 11 to 16 years and 10 and under are allowed to enter free of charge. All scales are represented. There are operating layouts, toy trains, videos and pictures and lots of stuff to buy from a large variety of vendors. If you are interested in having a table at the show contact Shirley Sample (509) 991-2317 or email Shirley@busnws.com. Parking is free.

NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (AP+)



I recently had a conversation with **Phil Everett**, the AP Chairman of the 5th Division. Phil has been AP Chairman for five years and has many more years of experience in all aspects of model railroading. Phil is a member of the *River City Modelers Club* in Spokane and has an O-Scale home layout. Here is what Phil had to say about the Achievement Program (AP+).

- Q.** What does it mean to be the AP Chairman for an NMRA Division?
- A.** There are many responsibilities that fall to the AP Chairman. The first that comes to mind is that the Chairman has to promote the AP to all members in the Division. Second, the Chairman must organize judging sessions that are at a time and at a place that will work for the majority of members who want to participate in the program. Third, because some of the award categories require two judges, I have to train others to assist in that task. And, finally, as Chairman, I have to assist in the documentation (paperwork) that must be submitted to the *Regional AP Chairman* and answer any questions that arise during the process.
- Q.** How many 5th Division members currently participate in the AP?
- A.** I would estimate that there are about 20 and somewhat over half of them live in the greater Spokane area.
- Q.** What are the most popular categories for awards?
- A.** Probably structures followed closely by locomotives and rolling stock.
- Q.** It has been said that the AP is too complicated and involves too much paperwork. How would you respond to that statement?

- A. I can't say that I would disagree with that perception and, perhaps, neither would the NMRA. But those at the national level are trying to streamline and simplify the process. The fact remains that the program is supposed to set high standards for modeling achievements and so the requirements have to be pretty stringent to give people a reason to get better and better within the hobby.
- Q. The 5th Division covers a very broad geographical area, even larger now that more of Montana is included. How easy is it for someone far from Spokane to participate?
- A. Well, it is a problem and I don't have a ready solution. If a modeler lives in central Montana they may be a hundred miles or more from the next modeler. They could feel isolated [with respect to the hobby] at a number of levels including socializing and sharing information with fellow modelers, having easy access to hobby shops, and participation in train shows and NMRA events.
- Q. What are your own plans to expand participation in the AP?
- A. I have been the 5th Division AP Chairman for five years and I sometimes feel like I have exhausted my ideas. As we speak today, perhaps I could conduct a judging session at the Spokane Train Show in October so that people could see the process and ask questions. If the modelers were present, they could interact with the audience and that could be an interesting way to expose more people to the NMRA Achievement program. [See the next article. *Ed.*]
- Q. How can members get more information about the Achievement Program?
- A. Well, as I have said, that is part of my job so they can contact me [Phil's email address is listed with other 5th Division Executives. *Ed.*] Also, all of the technical information is published on the NMRA website [see www.NMRA.org for more information].

AP JUDGING TO TAKE PLACE AT SPOKANE TRAIN SHOW

Phil Everett, the 5th Division AP Chairman, will hold a judging session at the Fall Model Train Show in Spokane. The show is on Sunday, October 13th and will be at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center. The hours for the show are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the judging is scheduled at noon.

Members who would like to participate may find the appropriate and necessary forms on the NMRA website at <https://www.google.com/webhp?q=nmra+achievement+program>. Models should be brought to the River City Modelers' table at the show no later than 11:45 a.m. Following the judging all models should be removed to a secure location. Neither the PNR, the 5th Division, River City Modelers nor its partner organizations can be responsible for loss or damage to models that are judged at the Fall Train Show so plan to stay with your model(s) until the judging is over.

For additional information, contact Phil Everett at (509) 443-2457 or by email at lazytwo@gmail.com.

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