



# THE GOAT

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I was pleased to be able to attend the Pacific Northwest Regional Convention this past June in Boise, Idaho. There were several items that the Board of Directors took action on. I will not cover all of the items discussed, except for those that effect the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. They are as follows.

- The BOD received a request from the Superintendent of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division, to transfer those NMRA members that lived in Eastern Montana to the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. After a brief discussed the BOD approved this request. This approval means the 5<sup>th</sup> Division now extents all the way the North Dakota/Montana border. It also means that the Division has increased its membership by about some 20 members.
- Jack Hamilton, who is the PNR Achievement Program chairman, explained the new system that is now being used to evaluate A.P. submittals for merit and certificate awards. The new system reduces the amount of paperwork that the submitting member has to fill out. Most of the paperwork will now be filled out by the evaluator, when they evaluate the items, I.E. structures, car, engines and alike, had be submitted. During the convention I was a member of a five man evaluation team that went out to three home layouts be evaluated. The team wrote several merit awards and three A.P. certificates. Jack Hamilton later informed us that another team, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, evaluated a member's home layout and was able to award him seven certificates that qualified him for the Master Model Railroader Award. So if you have anything that you wish to have evaluated please feel free to contact me and I will make sure that this information is passed on the Divisional A.P. Chairman Phil Everett.
- As most of you know, the 2014 PNR convention will be hosted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. This change in hosting the convention is due to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division getting ready to host the National Model Railroad Association Convention and National Train Show in 2015, In Portland Oregon. Please check the PNR web site for further information on the PNR convention, which will be held in Tacoma Washington.

Lastly, as some of know, I was undergoing treatments for Cancer. I am very happy to say that the Doctors have told me that the cancer is now in total remission. I would like to thank all those who sent cards and e-mails wishing me a speedy recover. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated by both me and my family. Thank you again.

Gary Thurow  
5<sup>th</sup> Division Superintendent

## NOMINATIONS FOR REGIONAL PRESIDENT

Message from **David Faussett**, Nomination Chairman

We have to do something we haven't done in a while. We need to nominate and elect a President for the Pacific Northwest Region. So if you do not like the way the region has been handled for the past several years now is your chance to step up and show us how it should be done.

If you are happy with the way that **Walt Huston** has run our region, you can now step up and take Walt's place and continue the good work that he has been doing. Either way, we need to find someone to be our PNR President. We also will entertain additional nominees for the PNR Vice President.

This information needs to get to all members. Will you please include it in any news letters or emails that you send to your members?

Nominees' names and information should be forwarded to the Nomination Chairman, **David Faussett**, at [davidfaussett@gmail.com](mailto:davidfaussett@gmail.com)

## BUILD A MEMORY PROJECT INFORMATION

Contributed by **Page Martin**, NMRA Marketing Manager

In November, during National Model Railroad Month, the NMRA is launching a new endeavor that it anticipates becoming a yearly tradition. In conjunction with Athearn Trains, Woodland Scenics and Walthers, the NMRA is unveiling the *Build A Memory* initiative. This seminar is designed to show the public how one might start a model railroad layout for themselves. Everyone loves the holidays and everyone loves trains and the memories that they evoke.

In concert with a national building and home center and the target date of November 16th, this year's pilot program will be a Saturday "How To" class. The intent of the seminars is to show our guests how to build the basics of a starter layout that the owner can either continue to expand or use yearly as a holiday memory with expansion in the future.

Please visit our website at [NMRA.org](http://NMRA.org) or contact our Marketing Representative at [Marketing@HQ.NMRA.org](mailto:Marketing@HQ.NMRA.org). The potential Divisions needed for this year's event are being discussed and will be contacted shortly.

*If you have any questions or comments about the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in the NMRA Magazine.*

## HOW TO SELL THE NMRA

Message from **Kathy Millatt**, NMRA Atlantic District Director:

As a new Director, I attended the Train Show in Atlanta and was really impressed with the HQ team and their sales technique. As someone who has stood at NMRA stands at large events in the UK wondering what to say that will encourage people to join, it gave me some great ideas.

The team started by asking passersby, "Are you a model railroader?" Given that they are at a train show, the normal response is "yes." The team's next question is "are you a member of the NMRA?" If the answer is "no" then the team tells them about the rail pass and its benefits. The pass is for six months' NMRA membership and only costs \$9.95. The team has a pile of nickels lined up ready to give as change although potential members can also pay by card. At the Train Show, the team was also able to give out a few goodies such as pens, mugs, Convention bags and badges to encourage signing up.

The conversion rate from rail pass to full membership is 78%. This is a hugely successful route to new members having started people on a membership for six months.

Of course, having started a new member on a six month package, it may be worth recapping what we have to offer as it is easy to overlook the benefits that we do have. I personally have found the strongest benefit is the local Divisions. At our local UK show, I added a map of the UK showing where all the Divisions are based and it drew a lot of attention. Unfortunately, there were a few comments of "no one in my area" but on the whole it shows just how many groups we do have actively modeling.

The National Convention is just one in a busy calendar of events. Divisions and regions run their own meets and conventions which also draw in the public and potential new members. Other benefits are the magazine, calendar, website and recorded clinics. On a more practical front, the NMRA runs Modeling with the Masters at conventions and meets. The Achievement Program (AP) can add challenge and structure to a member's modeling. There are so many more that I haven't mentioned such as insurance, books, standards or library.

For those wondering, why bother with new members, my answer is simple. We are all getting older and I want to pass this amazing hobby down to new generations for them to enjoy as much as I have.

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## HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

**Evergreen Railroad Modelers (Spokane Valley)** will host two holiday open houses for visitors, families and friends. The first is on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, and the second is on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Both are from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The layout is located at 18213 East Appleway, in the Greenacres Shopping Center, Spokane Valley. Visit their webpage at <http://evergreenrr.blogspot.com/> for more information about the club's activities. There is lots of free parking available for visitors and the layout is easily accessible on street level.

**River City Modelers (Spokane)** will have their modular layout on display at *River Park Square* in downtown Spokane from Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, through Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. This is the second year that River City Modelers has been invited to join the Christmas Tree Elegance event at the Downtown Mall. Members will set up their modular layout and run trains for the 10 day event. The layout will be on the second floor between the main entrance and Macy's. Trains will be running from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekdays and from noon until 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The club will also have their layout open for visitors on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4:00 p.m. (both dates). The layout is located at 1130 East Sprague, a short distance from downtown Spokane. There is a small parking lot and plenty of on-street parking available. An elevator is also available for those who may not be able to navigate one flight of stairs to get to the layout.

Visit the club's website at <http://www.rivercitymodelers.org/> for more information about club activities.

**Tri-City Model Railroaders (Richland)** will have its 28-foot x 20-foot modular layout in operation on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the *Richland Community Center*. The Center is located in the south end of Howard Amon Park. For guests that come in the early evening, they can also see the annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade as it passes by on the Columbia River. Each boat is adorned with Holiday lighting! These concurrent events are always popular with local residents. Be sure to visit the club's web page at [www.owt.com/tcmr](http://www.owt.com/tcmr) for more information about the club's activities.

**Museum at Fort Missoula** will be opening their Christmas exhibit this weekend entitled "All Aboard the Holiday Express". You can find more information at <http://www.fortmissoulamuseum.org/events.php>. Their opening line for this event is "Choo Choo! Choo Choo! Jump on board this year for the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula's Annual Holiday Exhibit All Aboard the Holiday Express. Come see our train sets - old and new, big and small! There will be plenty to see for any train enthusiast young or old!" The event is Sunday,

November 17th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free but visitors are asked to please bring a canned good item for the Missoula Food Bank. For more information, contact **Robert M. Brown**, 728-3476

**Missoula Model Railroad Club** will have their layout open and running from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The club will also be hosting open houses on the 7th and 14th of December (both are Saturdays) from Noon to 4:00 p.m. We will have HO, N and possibly O scale trains operating along with hot chocolate and cider to help everyone stay warm.

**Check with your local clubs and hobby shops for additional information regarding holiday events in your area. Support your local organizations by getting out and visiting them during the holidays.**

## ABOUT *THE GOAT*

The next regular edition of *The Goat* will be posted during the first week in January. Watch for some interesting articles in that issue including:

- A history of EMD's E-Series locomotives,
- The third in a series about creating background scenes,
- Building scenery "modules" off of the layout,
- Railroad Experience on the Eastern Washington Gateway,
- Brief layout tours highlighting work spaces,
- A visit to Sunset Junction, and
- More.

Articles and submissions for "Subdivision Reports" are still being accepted so send in news about your club or other railroad related stuff happening in your area. The deadline will be mid-December. Let me know if your club or organization has new members or if you have lost someone (but make sure that it is OK to publish their names).

Finally, remember that *The Goat* has a members' "Want, Swap and Sell" department. You can provide pictures of items for sale or swap and list things that you are looking for. Send your listings today!

**Your newsletter needs your support to become more interesting and informative.** Send your letters, articles and suggestions to Alan Ashton, Editor, at [PNR5DNews@gmail.com](mailto:PNR5DNews@gmail.com).

**THE GOAT** is the official publication of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. The Goat is published quarterly with at least one paper issue per year – generally with ballots. Deadlines for material input are: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15. Publication dates are April 5, July 5, October 5, and January 5. Publication is the date *The Goat* is available on the PNR website. You may refer to the PNR website on the publication date to view, download and print *The Goat*. Special events may alter this timing. **All material and correspondence related to *The Goat* should be forwarded to the Editor.**

### 5<sup>th</sup> DIVISION EXECUTIVES

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