

An Introduction to the NMRA Achievement Program

A beginner's perspective

David Ellis

Susquehanna Division, MER, NMRA

The NMRA logo is displayed in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Below the letters 'N', 'M', 'R', and 'A' are four small orange dots, two under 'N' and two under 'A'. The logo is centered within a dark purple rectangular background.

Why get involved with the Achievement Program?

- **Improve your railroad modeling skills**
- Lifelong learning
- Guideposts and feedback
- NOT competition and judgement
- Enriching your hobby experience or becoming an MMR?

National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Certificate of Achievement

David Ellis

*is recognized as a
Association Volunteer*



*for superior achievement in the
hobby of Model Railroading.*

MCR #1132 September 21, 2019

DATE

Mike Kellem

CHAIRMAN, NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Overview of the Achievement Program (AP)

- Eleven categories (currently)
- Arranged in four groups: Model Railroad Equipment, Settings, Engineering and Operation, and Service to the Hobby
- Requirements (SOQ)
- Checklists
- Merit Awards: five factors/aspects

Model Railroad Equipment



[Master Builder - Motive Power](#)



[Master Builder - Cars](#)

www.nmra.org/categories

Settings



[Master Builder - Structures](#)



[Master Builder - Scenery](#)



[Master Builder - Prototype Models](#)

Engineering and Operation



[Model Railroad Engineer - Civil](#)



[Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical](#)



[Chief Dispatcher](#)

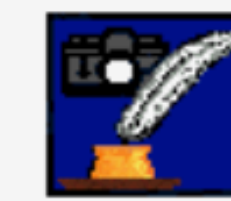
Service to the Hobby



[Association Official](#)



[Association Volunteer](#)

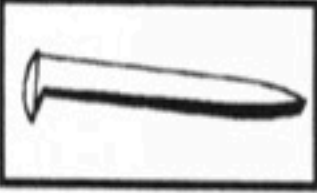


[Model Railroad Author](#)

Golden Spike

Not AP, but first step

- <https://susquehannanmra.org/wp-content/uploads/Golden-Spike-V.3.pdf>
- <https://www.nmra.org/golden-spike-award>
- https://www.nmra.org/system/files/edutrain/clinic_golden_spike_brucedeyoung.pdf

	ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM May 2006
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR	
Member's Name: <u>James Leighty</u> NMRA#: <u>089135</u> EXP: <u>2/28/25</u>	
Address: <u>PO Box 222</u> City: <u>Milford</u>	
State/Prov: <u>PA</u> Country: <u>USA</u> Postal Code: <u>18337</u>	
Date Submitted: <u>May 13, 2024</u> Region: <u>Mid-Eastern</u>	
<p>The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who has completed the Qualifications Checklist, obtained the necessary signatures and who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the regional and divisional AP Chairs. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratchbuilding and detailing. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist; obtain the signature of the divisional AP Chair or another NMRA member designated by the divisional Chair. The divisional Chair will submit the signed form to the regional AP Chair who will issue the Golden Spike Award certificate.</p>	
QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:	
1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or detailed commercial kits.	
2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construct five structures either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or detailed commercial kits. If a module has less than five structures, additional structures separate from the scene may be presented.	
3. Engineering (Civil & Electrical)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three types of trackage required (e.g. turnout, crossing, crossover, etc.). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All installed trackage 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 control).	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.	
Witness: <u>David A. Ellis</u> Name: <u>David A. Ellis</u> NMRA #: <u>130845 00</u>	
Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____	

Even If You Are Not Planning on AP/MMR

Here are some steps you might take

- Preview Requirements
- Volunteer
- Document

Volunteer as a Novice “Judge”

- Volunteer at a regional convention
- Take the “scoring the contest” clinic and be a part of a scoring or evaluation team
- You will learn a lot!
- One Merit Award take-away: Always provide drawing(s) or photo(s) for “Conformity”

Document NMRA Activities and Modeling

Computer, filing cabinet, or three ring binder

- Volunteering
- Clinics
- Writing
- Operating
- Building your railroad
- Building models

Document

Volunteer activities earn TUs

- Positions held
- Committee membership
- Clinics given
- Contest judging
- Hosting layout open house
- Modules

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORM February 2019

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RECORD OF SERVICE

POSITION HELD	FROM	TO	LEVEL N - National R - Regional D - Divisional	POINTS/ MONTH	POINTS EARNED	VERIFIED BY	NMRA #
Division 12, MCR, Division Officer: Clerk/ Treasurer	J a n . 2018	August 2019	D	1 TU	20 TU		
Division 12, MCR, Division Committee Member: T	M a y 2018	August 2019	D	1/2 TU	8 TU		
Division 12, MCR, Editor of NMRA Publication: <i>Builder's Plate</i> Editor URL on the division website at: (http://www.div12mcr.org/ http://www.div12mcr.org/)	F e b . 2018	August 2019	D	1 TU per issue	16 TU		
MCR Regional Convention, Contest Judge	May 2, 2019	May 4, 2019	R	2 TU per contest	2 TU	See email attached S t e v e	MMR # 612
Division 12, MCR, Modular layout participation with division T-TRAK at Jefferson Technical Session	J u l y 2 1 , 2018	J u l y 2 1 , 2018	D		3 TU		
Division 12, MCR, Modular layout participation with division T-TRAK at Erie Train ing	Nov. 4 2018	Nov. 4 2018	D		3 TU		
Division 12, MCR, Modular layout participation with division T-TRAK at Erie Train ing	March 3 2019	March 3 2019	D		3 TU		
MCR Regional Convention, Modular layout participation with T-TRAK	May 2, 2019	May 4, 2019	R		6 TU	See email attached B r u c e DeMeyer	145114
Division 12, MCR, Modular layout participation with division T-TRAK at Jefferson Technical Session	J u l y 20, 2019	J u l y 20, 2019	D		3 TU		
TOTAL POINTS					64 TU		

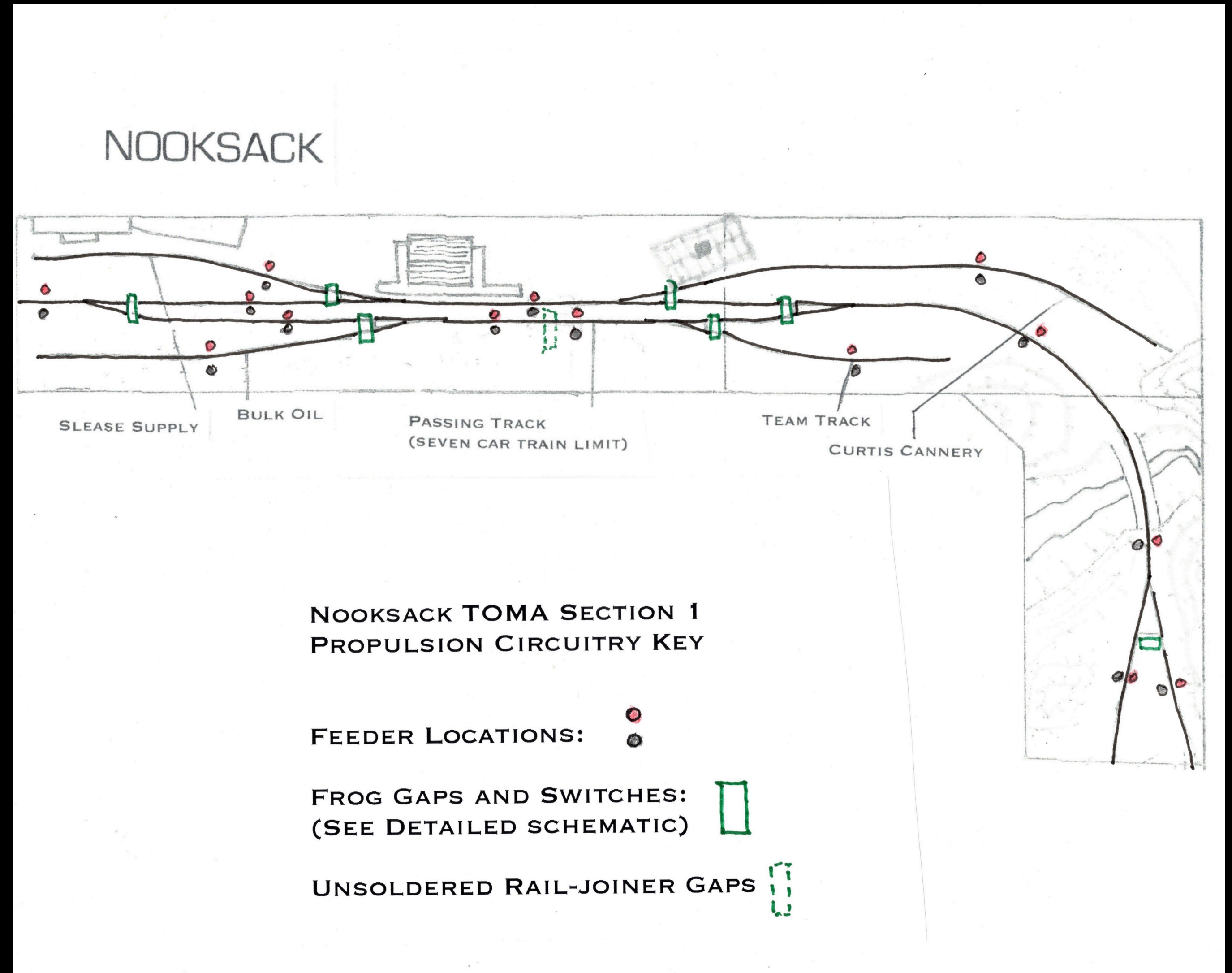
Are you an Operator?

Start your “Log Book” now

[illegible]

Building Your RR Document

- Electrical Diagrams
- Photos
- Track Plans



Modeling Document

- Photos
- Drawings
- Material lists



Achievement Program

Review

- Why?
- What is the AP?
- Any tips or ideas?

Achievement Program

Questions?

- www.nmra.org/categories
- <https://susquehannanmra.org/presentation/>
- Shameless Plug: gnbranch.blogspot.com