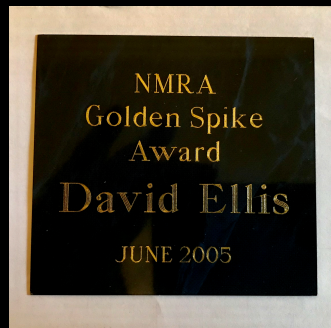


Golden Spike Award:

What It Is and How to Achieve It!

David A. Ellis

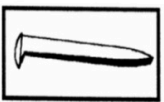
Susquehanna Division, MER, NMRA



Why the Golden Spike?

- Starting in the AP program
- Gaining familiarity with different aspects of the hobby
- Pushing your skill set
- Demonstrating transition to becoming scale model railroader
- “Supercharging the Golden Spike”

What is the Process?

	ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD APPLICATION FORM May 2006
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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND TO YOUR REGIONAL OR DIVISIONAL AP CHAIR

Member's Name: _____ NMRA #: _____ EXP: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date Submitted: _____ Region: _____

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.

QUALIFICATIONS CHECKLIST:

1. Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):

☐ Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits or detailed commercial kits.

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)

☐ Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.
☐ 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)

☐ 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.
☐ 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).
☐ Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: _____ Name: _____ NMRA #: _____

Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____

- <https://www.nmra.org/golden-spike-award>
- Download the application
- Fill out the form
- Have a qualified NMRA member see your work and sign off on the checklist
- Have Bob Charles submit it to the region.

What's on the Checklist?

- Rolling Stock- six units
- Model Railroad Setting-
 - Construct eight square feet including scenery
 - Construct five structures
- Engineering-
 - Three types of trackage
 - Properly wired for two trains at the same time
 - At least one additional electrical feature

How do I Complete the Steps?

- Construct and Display
- Construct modules, home railroad, part of a club
- Can be different scales
- Rolling stock displayed at home or on display at our membership meeting
- Structures on your railroad or on display
- Flexible, low pressure, no judging, but must demonstrate modeling skills.

Rolling Stock

- Display six cars and/or motive power
- Purchasing is not the same as building
- Scratchbuilt, craftsman kits, or detailed “shake-the-box” kits
- Painting, weathering, or adding details can qualify
- Open top cars with scratchbuilt loads are your friends!

Detailing a Commercial Kit



Model Railroad Setting: Scenery

- Construct at least eight square feet of model railroad
- Includes scenery
- Terrain: Variety of natural and human terrain
 - Look-fors: variation in height, colors, vegetation, materials, texture
 - Turn-offs: floating structures and unweathered track.
- Realism: Is it plausible and realistic or toy like?

Model Railroad Setting: Structures

- Construct five structures
- Scratchbuilt, craftsman kits, or detailed commercial kits
- “Detailing” includes painting; weathering; kitbashing; or adding signs, additional details, mini-scenes, or interiors
- Structures on layout or separate display

Setting -- Structures

Atlas Water Tower kit: No



Custom paint & chain added: bare minimum





Pros: interior, window shades, custom paint
To Do: more details, add signage, weathering?
Cons: Hide the base!

Civil Engineering

- Three types of trackage required
- Passing siding, spur track, crossover, simple ladder (three track minimum), or grade elevation
- Not necessarily three different kinds of track
- Commercial track is okay
- All track must be ballasted and installed on proper roadbed
- A ballasted passing track and spur track with commercial track on cork roadbed.

Civil Engineering Example



Ballast



Electrical Engineering

- All installed track wired so two trains can operate simultaneously.
- Double track main, single track main with sidings or spur tracks, DCC or DC with block control, even selective power to a spur.
- *One* additional electrical feature
- A powered turnout, a light in or on a building, turnout indication, a track signal, etc.

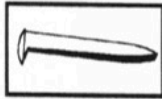
Who in Susquehanna?

- MMRs are not eligible
- Anyone:
 - thinking about starting the AP
 - with a completed or nearly completed model railroad
 - building a model railroad
 - with a number of modules
 - just getting started

PowerPoint to accompany Golden Spike Award Application Form

Rolling Stock Photos: Jim Leighty

Other Photos: Dave Ellis



**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: James Leighty NMRA #: 089135 EXP: 2/28/25
Address: PO Box 222 City: Milford
State/Prov: PA Country: USA Postal Code: 18337
Date Submitted: May 13, 2024 Region: Mid-Eastern

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☒ Provide one additional electrical feature such as power operated turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Witness: David A. Ellis Name: David A. Ellis NMRA #: 130845 00

Regional AP Chair: _____ Region: _____

Qualifications Checklist #1

- Rolling Stock (Motive Power & Cars):
- Display six units of rolling stock either scratchbuilt, craftsman kits, or detailed commercial kits.

Rolling Stock #1 & #2



- Sunshine Models resin kit - **New Haven converted army sleeper**
- Built, detailed, painted, decaled, and weathered
- Sunshine kit – **DL&W Boxcar**
- Built, painted, decaled, and weathered

Rolling Stock #3 & #4



- **EL Gondola** – old Roller Bearing Models Kit
- Built, painted, detailed, decaled, and weathered
- **Caboose** – undecorated Intermountain kit
- Made custom decals for Maywood Terminal Line
- Built and detailed

Rolling Stock #5

- O and W Carshops resin kit
- Built, detailed, painted, decaled, and weathered
- According to Jim: “This was a difficult project.”



Rolling Stock #6 (& #7)



- Bachmann GE 70 tonner
- Added detail parts and custom decals.
- Added Tsunami 2 decoder and “keep alive”
- O & W Kato SW2
- Custom painting, prototype details and lighting added

Qualifications Checklist #2

- Model Railroad Setting (Structures & Scenery)
- Construct a minimum of eight square feet of layout including scenery.
- 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.

Setting: Double Deck 11' X 19'
plus 7' X 9' Helix and two 17' Shelves



Setting: Several Large Kitbashed Industries



Qualifications Checklist #3

- Engineering (Civil & Electrical)
- 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.
- All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously
- Provide one additional electrical feature

Connection to Newer D & H Branch Line in Adjoining Room



Engineering

- NCE DCC with PSX breakers for multiple power districts
- Ten NCE radio throttles
- Staging for over twenty trains
- Two main yards plus several smaller yards

Additional Electrical Features



Questions?

Shameless Plug:

gnbranch.blogspot.com