

MMRS EARNED



RON BAILE EARNS MMR # 496

I was born in 1947. Growing up in Gloucester City, New Jersey, I witnessed the last of steam operations on the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines.

Those experiences, and a Lionel Train set, hooked me on railroading for the rest of my life.

I received an education in the Gloucester city school system, Camden County College, and the U.S. Army, where I performed telephone central office installation and maintenance and telephone installation and repair duties. While in the army, I witnessed railroading in several states and countries, some of it under steam, and participated in an army base model railroad club. I joined New Jersey Bell Telephone in 1970 and retired from Verizon in May 2003. I assumed I would spend the rest of my life model railroading.

I remained retired for about nine months. After a railfan trip, I went to work as a volunteer for the Cape May Seashore Lines Railroad (CMSL) in April 2004. I progressed from scraping crud from the

bowels of a locomotive three days a week to mechanic, station agent, conductor, and engineer. I operate locomotives such as the GP7, GP9, and F7 in both freight and passenger service. CMSL also operates several RDCs. Passenger service consists of mainly seasonal tourist trains and the "Santa Claus Express" specials during the holiday season.

I am a member of the West Jersey Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, where I currently serve as vice president. I hold life memberships in the NMRA and its Mid-Eastern Region, where I held positions as director and secretary. I am a past director and past superintendent of the New Jersey Division of the MER where I also served as AP chairman. I have been modeling in HO scale since 1960 and also do some modeling in On3 and G scale.

My HO scale model railroad, The Delaware South Park, represents the mid-1950s and features mostly first generation diesels and an occasional steam locomotive. It runs from the sleepy Delaware Bay town of Port Norris and crosses the length of the state of New Jersey, winding up at Park Yard in Plainfield, New Jersey. There, it connects to the rest of the world via Lehigh Valley and Jersey Central Railroads. I operate the railroad with a Digitrax DCC system.

I thank the members of the Gateway Model RR Club for allowing me to experiment with car card operations and electronics applications on their railroad over the years. I also thank all those who have been an inspiration to me during my many years in the hobby. They are too numerous to mention, but I want to extend a special thanks to Dr. Charles Patti, an excellent narrow gauge modeler, the late Bill Gruber, MMR, and the members of the Narrow Gauge Mafia whose fine modeling made an impression on me over the years. P.J. Mattson, MMR, the NJ Division's current AP chairman, pushed me and pulled me to get to this point of completing the MMR. Thanks, P.J.

People ask me what I will do now that I completed the MMR. I will continue to build "unusual" cars, especially freight cars such as MOW, unique cars not available as kits, and "one of a kind" cars. I enjoy the challenges of building kits and scratchbuilding models. My layout needs further work. I intend to pursue additional AP's such as Structures, Motive Power, and Prototype Models for starters. I will continue to serve the Division and MER, giving clinics and doing contest judging. Additionally, researching and writing for the historical society gives me great satisfaction.

I collect railroad timetables and rule-books and other miscellaneous railroad paper items. My other interests include photography, boating, and listening to almost any kind of music. I am married to Gwen, who is a very tolerant woman.

Ron holds the following Certificates: Association Volunteer, Association Official, Model Railroad Author, Master Builder-Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, and Master Builder-Cars.
