

# DESERT MODELER

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## NMRAx clinic

I've been asked to do a clinic on the AP for NMRAx. It is scheduled for January, but may move into December, if someone drops out. You can view it on the NMRA page on Facebook (<https://tinyurl.com/y9l3g9n7>), or YouTube (<https://tinyurl.com/ydd597oh>).

I will be reviewing the AP and MMR processes and, hopefully, dispelling a few myths and blowing out some cobwebs.

If you cannot join live, you can always view the recorded video at the above sites.

## Tiny URLs

Yes, I used them throughout this newsletter. Limited space kinda forces it. Don't worry about them being bogus. I created them.

## Meet Paul Buhrke

Paul is a relatively recent member of the AZ division, living near Marana AZ. He has an operations designed HOn3 layout.

A retired railroader, Paul has become an amazing modeler.

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## The Zoom build

Frank Baker led many of us through building a laser kit this fall. I haven't had a chance to see photos of the finished models, the in-process peeks looked very promising.

Hopefully, there is a lesson or two in what I did for folks.

The original kit was designed to look like this.



I saw issues with it as delivered: the dock was too low for a box car or truck, the roof design was more eastern than my narrow gauge interests, and Frank noted that the walls were not adequately braced to prevent warping while painting. So, I decided to use the kit as an inspiration for a scratch built structure.



Changing the roof, deck, stairs and foundation took this from a kit structure to a scratch built one (93% non-commercial parts). I've written it up as if

it were being evaluated for the AP program or submitted for a contest. You can download it at <https://tinyurl.com/y8og7lsg>.

Admittedly, this write-up a bit over the top, but this is how

I got a call from him earlier this year, about becoming a MMR.

His operating sessions were enough to get him Chief Dispatcher in August. Then in November he earned his engineering certificates: Civil & Electrical. In early December, his scenery was evaluated and his paperwork is on the way to National as I'm writing this.

He has the foundation for Prototype Modeler and Structures on his layout now.

He is working on writing some things about his railroad, in addition to his blog, helping him toward Author.

Cars will bring him a certificate in the fourth category and qualify him for MMR.

**All of the evaluation so far has been done remotely.** I'm really looking forward to seeing his work in person.

Congratulations, Paul.

## Remote Evaluation

Just a reminder, thought the use of Zoom and photographs and eMail, we have been able to get many awards reviewed and submitted this year without personal contact.

About the only ones that still need direct evaluation are Structures, Cars, and Motive Power.

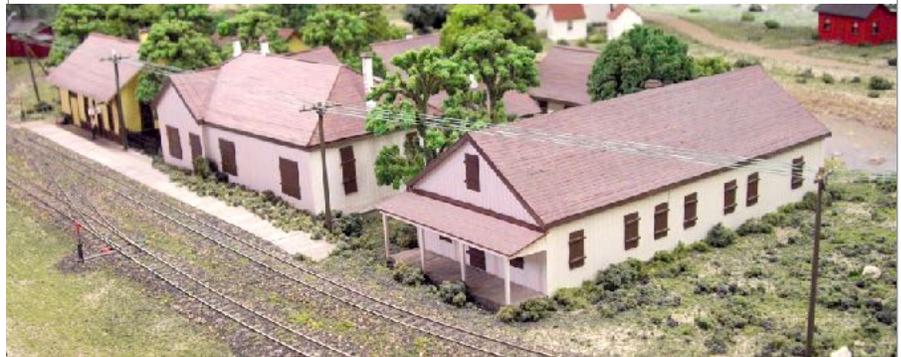
The strange times of this era needn't keep you from getting awards.

you can maximize points awarded for your work.

A marvelous assistant on writing up your model for evaluation or judging is a paper written by LSR AP Manager, Duane Richardson MMR . It is on the LSR web site (<https://tinyurl.com/y7zj63s7>). It was my guide in doing this write-up. It pushed me in some directions that I wouldn't have gone on my own. I highly recommend it for folks writing up their work.

## Paul Buhrke's Colorado

See the sidebar on the left for some of Paul's story.



The depot, restaurant and hotel in Cimmarron, CO circa 1929, as modeled on Paul Buhrke's layout. This was when the traffic was starting to wane on the division. The hotel and restaurant are boarded up. The depot has been repainted into the new D&RG yellowish cream and brown, but other buildings have the traditional Tuscan red paint jobs which are starting to show sun-fading.



US-50 and the wye cross the Cimmarron River.