

RMR Model Contest Chair

- Gary Myers

The **2025 Rocky Mountain Region Convention** will be held in Durango, Colorado. We are planning **May15-18, 2025** with details to come. Please note the **important** Contest dates:

May 10th: Form 901 Contest Entry due (send to garymyers06@comcast.net)
Mark on form if you want NMRA judging. All entries are open for popular vote.
Send to me even if you are not sure you will enter the model, so I can prepare ballots.
Bring the other Form 902 and any other paperwork for judging on May 16th.



Durango 2025 Convention Schedule

| Model Contest Room | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Friday, May 16 th | 8 AM – Noon | Model entries accepted |
| | 6 PM- 10 PM | Model entries accepted |
| Saturday, May 17 th | 8 AM – Noon | Popular Voting |
| | 6 PM – 9 PM | Judging |
| | 9 PM – 10 PM | Model Pickup |
| Clinic Room | | |
| Sunday, May 18 th | 9 AM – 9:45 AM | Awards Presentation |

If you have a special project for next year, now is the time to get started!

Rocky Mountain Region NMRA Awards

The Rocky Mountain Region presents a special award for the top 3 highest NMRA judged scores, limited to the **Motive Power, Rolling Stock and Structures** categories. These top three awards are presented in addition to any other award presented, e.g., 1st Place Motive Power, 1st Place Online Structures, etc. The top three **RMR 1st-3rd Place** awards are the: **The Summit, Duane Miller, and Fred Carlson Awards**, respectively.



The “**Summit**” award is symbolic for a Region named for the **Rocky Mountains**, for the individual who has achieved the peak of the Region’s modelers, the “**Summit**”. Our second place award honors **Duane Miller**, longtime Caboose Hobbies owner who supported the Region for decades. Sadly, we lost Duane this summer, please catch my tribute to **Duane and the Miller family** on our RMR Home page. Our 3rd place award honors our late President **Fred Carlson**, who set many standards in modeling in our Region.

In contrast, the National Contest selects one entry from all the 1st place categories, awards that entry the “**Gold Award**”, and then removes it from its category, which then results moving up the remaining entries from that category one notch (from 2nd to 4th to 1st to 3rd). The Region does not remove the top entry from it’s category and elevate 2nd – 4th place entries to 1st – 3rd.

Rocky Mountain Region vs National Categories

National also has two categories for each main category, scratch-built and kit-built. The RMR does not differentiate scratch-built vs kit-built, but includes all models to whatever degree of scratch to specific categories. It is noteworthy that scratch-built and partially scratch-built models regularly earn more points than kit-built models in either the National or the Region contests. In fact, the National contest rarely has any kit-built entries earning a merit award over the past several contests. The explanation for this is simple. NMRA judging is based on the amount of work a modeler does on their entry. Planning, design, drawings, research, and the making of parts generally are not a part of kit-built parts, but it is a significant portion of scoring.

As opposed to the National’s single Structures category, the RMR has featured two Structures categories, Online and Offline (normally what is considered a building). According to NMRA rules, “just about anything on the layout that was man made and doesn't fit into one of the other Master Builder categories”. In the past, this would include track as well, however, now track judging has been reduced to a simple a pass/fail and so now is excluded.

The RMR has added a third Structures category called “Extras”. Extras include rolling stock loads (car excluded), vehicles, ships, derricks, towers, docks, cranes, etc. Note that these types of structures would

require a lot of work to achieve a merit award, if at all possible. Models submitted for judging should be expected to be highly detailed, mostly scratchbuilt, and very complex to earn enough points for a merit award.

Rocky Mountain Region Judged Entries

Modelers have the option to have their model participate in NMRA judging or not. NMRA judging requires contest forms 901 and 902 to be submitted with the entry. For the contest, the things that help judges the most:

Construction details, construction photos with simple captions – keep informative & concise

Details: A list of all Commercial, kit-supplied, and scratch made details

Prototype: Photos, documentation, what research you did, of prototype or what free-lance it is based on.

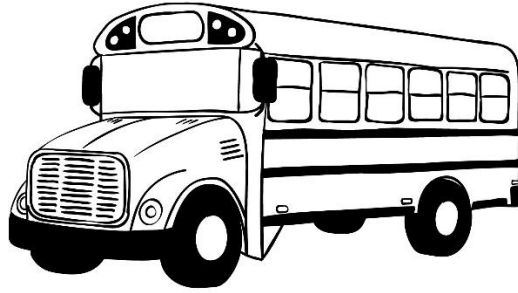
Scratchbuilt – Don't just say all scratchbuilt, describe complexity, materials, special techniques, casting, photo-etching, etc.

Assume judges are unfamiliar with your prototype, special construction, details of model.

Add description of any out of ordinary, peculiarities, especially noting complexity.

Keep in mind that not every model has the difficulty and complexity to earn enough points for a merit award. Simple models may be of high quality, but will be limited in total points for their lack of complexity.

2025 Convention Special: Hold the Bus!



This year's Convention Special will be **anything that could possibly represent a "Bus"**. I wanted to get back to the original concept for the Convention Special, something simple, something unique, and something that would hardly qualify for a merit award! But maybe it is another of those little observed projects that may have been made with a lot of effort, an interesting back story, or just something neat! This can be a city bus, school bus, converted van, motor-bus or other conversion. This can also be a fictitious or prototype diorama. This is meant to be a fun category and is won by popular vote.

Previous Convention Special Awards

2023 Rails Along the Rio Grande

2022 Cheyenne Heritage Railroad Days

2021 Joint Lines to Pueblo

2018 Cheyenne Express

2017 Animas Rails

2016 Pike's Peak or Bust

Route 66

Brewmeister

Yacht Club

Shack Attack

Construction Truck

Flat Car Load

Mike Fifer

David Dane

Gary Myers

Martin Pirnat

Bill Tulley

Bill Tulley

This is not a judged category and is awarded by popular vote, although judging may be requested for the model as appropriate. The model may be displayed as a model only or include a diorama.

Colorado Award

Every convention features a popular award that best represents model railroading of that particular state. This can be anything, from a piece of rolling stock, locomotive, structure, diorama, or anything that represents railroading of Colorado. The award for the Best Representation of Colorado Railroading is not a judged category and is awarded by popular vote, although judging may be requested for the model as appropriate. The model may be displayed as a model only or include a diorama.

RMR 2025 Convention Model Contest

NMRA Judged & Popular Vote Categories

| Categories | Definition |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>MOTIVE POWER</u> | Powered, self-propelled locomotive (Dummies excluded) |
| Steam Locomotive | Any locomotive receiving propulsion from the expansion of steam. |
| Diesel & Other Locomotive | Any locomotive receiving propulsion from an internal combustion engine, including self-propelled maintenance vehicles. Any AB pair or ABB multi-unit diesels shall be judged as a single model. |
| Traction | Any locomotive or car receiving propulsion from an external source of electricity. |
| <u>ROLLING STOCK</u> | Anything that runs on rails and is NOT self-propelled, including Dummy locomotives |
| Passenger Car | Any car in a passenger train, including head end express cars, non-powered trolleys and interurbans. |
| Freight Car | Any car used to transport revenue. |
| Caboose | Any car used on the rear of the train utilized by the train crew. |
| Non-revenue | Any car used for the purpose of maintaining the right-of-way and associated structures. |
| Dummy Loco | Any unpowered unit not paired with a powered unit |
| <u>STRUCTURES</u> | |
| On-line | Any class of building serviced by the railroad (requires track access). |
| Off-line | Any class of building not necessarily requiring track access (Commercial, industrial, residential). |
| Extra | Miscellaneous structures other than buildings: bridges, rolling stock loads (car excluded), vehicles, ships, derricks, towers, docks, cranes, etc. |
| <u>MODULE</u> | Any display of models including scenery, to be judged as "SCENERY" Modules are excluded from 1 st -3 rd Place RMR Grand Prize awards Portion of any modular layout on display during the contest |
| Module | |
| Diorama | Any other larger size of module |
| Mini-Diorama | Any module of 144 sq inches or less |
| T-TRAK Module | Approximately square foot KATO standard T-TRAK module |

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Additional Popular Vote Categories

Categories

Definition

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Hold the Bus (Special) | This can be a city bus, school bus, converted van, motor-bus or other conversion. This can also be a fictitious or prototype diorama. |
| Colorado Award | Best representation of "Colorado Railroading" |
| Journeyman | Best Modeling - RMR Youth Award (Under 18 yrs of age)* |
| Best Train | 6' maximum length (please) |
| Model Print | Black & White or Color |
| Prototype Print | Black & White or Color |
| Arts & Crafts | Railroadiana, Needlepoint, and General |
| Railroad Pass | Best Pass for Layout/Operating Layout/Model RR |

*from any category entry

MODEL CONTEST AWARDS

Contest awards shall be provided by the following criteria:

Popular Awards

Hold the Bus, Best Representation of Colorado Railroading, Journeyman (under 18 years of Age)

Popular Vote Awards –

1st Place Plaque will be awarded for every category that has at least 5 participants.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Certificates will be issued by Place in each category.

NMRA Judged Awards -

**Highest NMRA Score – Rocky Mountain Summit Award (Trophy)
Second Highest NMRA Score – Duane Miller Award (Trophy)
Third Highest NMRA Score – Fred Carlson Award (Trophy)
(Limited to Motive Power, Rolling Stock & Structures)**

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Plaques will be awarded in each category for those achieving a Merit Award (description follows below).

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Certificates will be issued by Place in each category.

Entries in NMRA Judged Categories that achieve a Merit Award qualify for a plaque:

NMRA score

120 – 125 pts
108 – 119 pts
87.5 – 107 pts

Score Tier

1st Tier 6 point range
2nd Tier 12 point range
3rd Tier 20 point range

Plaque Style

Elite
Premium
Standard