

Mid Eastern Region, NMRA Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award

1) What is the award?

The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award is an award for excellence in modeling topics relating to Narrow Gauge railroads. For our purposes here, a narrow gauge railroad is defined as one built using rail width less than 4'8 1/2" thus differentiating it from standard gauge lines as we know them in America and Great Britain.

2) Sponsors:

The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award is sponsored by a group of MER fine scale narrow gauge modelers. These craftsmen represent several scales, and model both prototype and freelance railroads:

Charles Flichman
Noll Horan
Norm Garner
Martin Brechbiel

3) Who can compete for the award?

Any NMRA/MER member in good standing who chooses to enter a narrow gauge model in the official NMRA/MER sponsored judged model contest at a MER convention may compete for this award. A member can also compete for this award by bringing a narrow gauge model to be judged for the Achievement Program only.

4) Modeling Parameters --- definition and limits of the what qualifies a model for the award

A narrow gauge model is defined as any recreation of something that could be found on a narrow gauge railroad line...whether local, in the United States, or throughout the world. The model can be a locomotive, a piece of rolling stock or a structure. It can also depict a narrow gauge scene in a diorama, or on a module. The model can either follow a specific prototype such as the Denver and Rio Grande Western, the Rio Grande Southern, East Broad Top, and others; or it can represent a freelanced narrow gauge railroad.

5) How the contest will be Judged and the winner chosen:

The model will be judged as part of the regular judging of the model contest at an MER convention. The Judging guidelines will be those established by the NMRA for the model contest and the AP Program. Any narrow gauge model can also qualify for this award if it is being judged only for the Achievement Program at this convention, and is not an entry in the model contest. The narrow gauge model achieving the highest score above eighty-seven and one-half points in the model contest or AP only judging will be the winner. In case of a tied score, those judges who are narrow gauge modelers, in consultation with the Chief judge and if necessary other narrow gauge modelers, will choose the winning entry.

6) The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award (operations and award):

Once the winning entry has been decided, the sponsors of the award will contact the winner. At the official MER awards ceremony, the MER Narrow Gauge Modeling Award trophy (plaque) will be presented to the winner. The award will be handed out when the other special awards are distributed. This award can be presented by one of the sponsors. If this is not possible, the MER General Contest Chairman, or someone he or she designates, can announce and hand out the award. The trophy will be taken by the sponsors of the award, engraved with the winner's name and date of the convention. The engraved award will then be sent on to the winner.

7) Sponsors (Organization and Contact persons) and Funding:

The sponsors of the award will fund The Ray Bilodeau Narrow Gauge Modeling Award.

8) Time limit for this award:

The sponsors of this award understand that in order for it to be placed into the special awards given at a MER sponsored convention this award must be approved by the MER Board of Directors. If approved, the award can be given at every MER sponsored convention over a two-year period. In order to continue presenting this award, the sponsors must seek renewal approval from the MER BOD every two years.