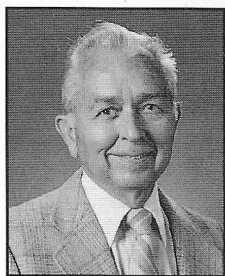


Robert C. Schimmel, MMR #193

Bob is a native New Englander who moved to California a long time ago. He went to Purdue when steam was king and regrets not taking photos of the Wabash, Monon and Big 4 when they were there for the taking. However, he can still hear the lonesome wail of the steam whistles in the middle of the night as those iron monsters chugged up the steepest grades in the Midwest.



He has been in model railroading for a long time, since shortly before steam as he tells it. Actually, he started out in model airplanes and got hooked on railroading when he bought a *Silver Streak* cabooses kit on a whim to occupy what loomed as a dull weekend. He was a closet modeler for way too long, unaware of the NMRA until he moved to San Diego where he soon became, and still is, active with the San Diego Division. He is currently serving as director and has also been superintendent, contest chairman and editor of the *Mailhook*. He was never into the competitive aspect of the NMRA until a few years ago when Wil Seaver, who was president of PSR at the time, saw his collection of scratch- and crossbuilt locomotives and encouraged him to get with it. That collection is dominated by big electrics, the "juicejacks," and are all decked out in the livery of his private road, bright yellow with two bright red stripes. Bob is an avid sculler (rower to the landlocked) and the blades of his oars just happen to be bright yellow with two bright red stripes. Pure coincidence.

Since retiring from GE's Aerospace Group a few years ago, he has never wanted for things to do. Although he has a backlog of two or three or more years' worth of model railroad projects to start and/or finish, he recently built a radio-controlled fireboat for a diversion. He's already looking at ways to use the RC technology for model railroads. He also serves as range officer at a local gun club two days a month. He likes to play golf and tennis, but doesn't get to do either very often. When coerced into it, he also pitches in as mechanic for his wife's two sports cars and rides shotgun on tours. She encourages (tolerates?) his hobbies and he hers. Cool! He used to spend a lot of time with his sailboat, but something had to give, so he sold it a few years back.

Bob is a member of Convair's HO club, the Foothillers, an informal group of modelers who put on the national convention in 1974 (before his watch), the Silvergate Modular Group, a new HO club, 100 percent NMRA, that is just getting started, the Santa Fe Modelers Organization, and an honorary member of the Coachella Valley Model Railroaders. Although his major scale is HO, he is getting his feet wet in O and G and has plans for an N scale winter scene coffee table layout for the Christmas season.

Building things is what he likes best. Others favor operating or making scenery, or whatever, and he feels this is what makes the hobby so great—there's something for everyone.

Bob's a nut on lighting and doesn't have any locomotives without operating headlights. The real ones operate their headlights night and day, so it's only being prototypical, according to him. This penchant for realistic lighting keeps him on a never-ending search for new circuits and gadgets for Mars lights, beacons, strobes, warning lights, etc. He also strives for animation, having made three operating aircraft beacons, a working oil well pump, two motorized turntables and a lighted and motorized carousel. He's still trying to fit a motorized Mars light in an HO locomotive.

To him, the greatest single benefit of belonging to the NMRA is the cast of great people one meets, fellow modelers with whom one can share ideas and areas of expertise. He has made a lot of friends from all over and sadly states that one of them was Bob Moskal, whose visits and phone calls will be sorely missed.

Bob is an NMRA life member and regrets he hasn't been in the organization as long as he's been in the hobby. He holds AP certificates for Volunteer, Motive Power, Official, Structures, Chief Dispatcher, Cars and Author. Along with several others, Bob is the driving force keeping the San Diego Division going. 🚂