

Departure Notices for Some Distinguished Former Members

Ron Gribler, MMR®

1938 - 2023

It is with great sadness we report the loss of long-time Division 7 member Ron Gribler, MMR®. Ron passed away early March 1, 2023. Our condolences go to Ron's family and friends, including Ron's grandson and Division 7 member Chris Gribler. Services were held on March 4, 2023. Ron was a lifelong O Scale model railroader with many awards and numerous publications and achieved the distinction of being Master Model Railroader #494. See attached obituary for more details, plus Chris's touching life story about him and Ron.

W. Allen McClelland, HLM, MMR®

1934 - 2022

It is with great sadness we report long-time neighboring Div. 3 member and renowned modeler, photographer, innovator, author and speaker W. Allen McClelland, HLM, MMR passed away on Friday, October 28, 2022. This is a great loss for the entire hobby and his friends in Division 7. Tony Koester just finished a new book on Allen and his V&O layout that was published by Kalmbach in January 2023. See attached for a photo by John Burchnall of Allen in May 2012. See also the remembrances of Allen in the NMRA, Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman magazines as well as the News section of Kalmbach Media's Trains.com website. Memorial gathering arrangements are currently unknown.

Perry Simpson

1942 - 2022

It is with great sadness we report long-time Div. 7 member and L&N modeler Perry Simpson passed away on Monday, September 26, 2022. He was also a member of the Cincinnati RR Club and the L&N Historical Society. Perry's large HO scale layout was featured in the 2013 issue of Great Model RRs magazine. Our condolences to Pam and Rick Moleski, Perry's daughter and son-in-law, both also longtime Div. 7 members. See attached local obituary for more details. See also attached photo of Perry and grandson Shane at Perry's layout.

Dianne Rowland

1954 - 2022

It is with great sadness we report long-time Division 7 member and leader Dianne Rowland passed away on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Dianne and her late husband Don chaired our Spring Flea Market a number of years ago. During recent years Dianne had once again stepped in as Co-Chair of that annual event. A celebration of Dianne's life was held on Saturday, July 9, at the Sharonville United Methodist Church, in Ohio. See the attached for more details, including a photo.

Frank Hermanek, MMR®

1933 - 2021

It is with great sadness that we report the death of long-time NMRA member and Master Model Railroader #360 on Thursday, December 23rd. Frank joined Cincinnati Division 7 and the Mid-Central Region when he moved from Indianapolis to Lawrenceburg, Indiana. He was a talented craftsman and built many contest winning freight cars recognized at the divisional, regional and national levels. He worked for GE Aircraft Engine Group and also at Praxair. A memorial service and reception to honor his life was celebrated on Monday, Jan. 17th. See the attached for details, plus more about Frank, including a photo.

Robert "Bob" Fink, MMR®
1935 - 2021

It is with great sadness that we report long time Division 3 member and leader, Bob Fink, passed away on May 29, 2021. Bob joined the NMRA in 1959, and was one of the original members of Division 3 when it was established by then Mid Central Region President Lone Eagle Payne in the summer of 1959. Bob served stints as Superintendent and Newsletter Editor, as well as other positions. After one of his house moves, Bob discovered he had also become a member of Division 7. Bob was a great friend and avid modeler, having attained the level of Master Model Railroader.

William Lee "Bill" Edwards
1946 - 2021

It is with great sadness that we report the death of former member and friend Bill Edwards on March 29, 2021. Bill was an outstanding modeler and clinician, who was well known for his entertaining clinics on scenery, weathering, scratch-building and other topics. Bill helped found the Black Diamond Lines model railroad club, and is credited with developing the "puff ball" model tree making method. Please see the attached for more about Bill.

Richard "Dick" White
1936 - 2020

It is with great sadness that we report the death of long-time member and friend Richard "Dick" White on Monday, June 1st. Dick was a key leader of Division 7 over many decades including serving as an officer and helping run the 1966 and 2005 National Conventions. He was also a prominent member of at least 3 local model railroad clubs - the Western Hills Model RR Club, the Cincinnati & Great Western RR Club, and the Cincinnati Model Railway Club. Please see the attached for a copy of Dick's obituary.

Charlie Atkinson, MMR®
1934 - 2020

It is with great sadness that we report the death of long-time member and friend Charlie Atkinson on Sunday March 29th. Charlie was a key leader of Division 7 over the years including a tour of duty as Division Superintendent and the head of our extremely successful 2005 National NMRA Convention. Please see the attached for more about Charlie, including pictures.