

RICK FULKERSON

Superintendent Atlantic Division 8

I was interested in trains at a very young age, but my parents could not afford to buy anything as expensive as a train set. I did play with a wooden set similar to what is still available for very young child until I outgrew it. Our neighbors had a much older son who had lost interest that loaned us his simple figure 8 Lionel train set that I ran until we had to return it.

I was not able to do anything more until I was overseas on a government contract in 1974 and it was nearing Christmas. All of us were going to the Montgomery Ward catalog mostly interested in slot cars. I decided to purchase the Tyco set that combined had both slot cars and trains with a crossing. Being overseas in Eritrea there was no way to build anything but a simple table, but I enjoyed the train and building structures until time to return to the US in 1975.

Upon returning, I jumped right in with Athearn blue box equipment and brass track with little to no idea what I was doing but reading MR and doing what I could. About this time I learned of a neighbor who was willing to teach me how to hand lay turnouts. I was off to the races.

I had to move frequently so many layouts were started, but I always loved hand laying track, structures and scenery. After living in several homes in Texas, Arizona and Nevada, I finally got to build a 20x20 layout in a bonus room above the garage in my home in Las Vegas. Although it did not get completely finished, we had many operating sessions on that layout where I and my crew earned our dispatcher certificate toward MMR. I also earned Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Scenery on that layout. I need to document my hours of volunteer work for the NMRA. I do have enough for the Volunteer certificate as well.

While in Las Vegas, I was the assistant superintendent for the Cajon division since the superintendent lived in southern California. The Cajon division is similar to the Atlantic division, super long and skinny so I organized all events for my area. I was awarded volunteer of the year just before needing to move again to the central coast of California then transferred to Kauai where I found no other model railroaders existed. There were a couple in Honolulu, but that required flying and was too expensive for a simple visit.

I retired from there and moved to Charleston where we have family a couple years ago and immediately found a few friends who operate regularly. They welcomed me into the group and I am enjoying the social side of the hobby again.

I still have a passion for hand laid track, structures and scenery. I recently placed in a contest with a diorama at the 41st National Narrow Gauge convention.

My passion is just the same for getting people together with meets, clinics, contests, public displays, etc. The others listed have joined together with me to reactivate the Atlantic division and promote this great hobby to young and old. Join us!

Rick Fulkerson