

# Northern Colorado Model Railroad Club Contest Rules

*Revised January, 2010*

## I. Entry

- A. All members in good standing in the Northern Colorado Model Railroad Club (NCMRC) are eligible to enter the contests.
- B. Only one entry per participant per category, (or per sub-category, in the case of a contest with multiple sub-categories) unless otherwise specified in the monthly contest rules.
- C. Entries can include brass, kits, or ready-to-run models, as long as they have been painted, decaled, detailed, weathered or otherwise modified by the contestant.
- D. Models entered can be a collaborative effort of more than one member; however, all points will be split evenly among the contributing members.
- E. Each entry must be accompanied by a 3x5 card (or similar), containing the title or description of the model, and any additional documentation that the entrant may wish to provide.
  - 1. This card will also contain the entry #, which is assigned by the Contest Coordinator at the time the model is entered.
- F. Any member or visitor can bring an item for non-contest display (and are encouraged to do so).

## II. Levels

- A. Contests will be judged at two levels:
  - 1. **Modeler** - This level is for those whose skills are not yet at the level expected of a **Craftsman**, and for those of a less competitive nature who just want to enter for the enjoyment of it. All members who are new or less experienced modelers are encouraged to participate at the **Modeler** level to feel comfortable with displaying their work and to just have fun.
  - 2. **Craftsman** - This level reflects a higher degree of skill in the modeling art. A **Craftsman** is expected to create models of exceptional quality in design, construction and detail.
- B. A member must decide each year, at the time they enter their first contest of the year, at which level they wish to enter during that year.
- C. If a member who has entered at the **Modeler** level in the year consistently displays the level of skill expected of a **Craftsman**, the Contest Coordinator<sup>1</sup> may switch that modeler to the **Craftsman** level at any time during the year, prior to the beginning of the final contest of the year. If they do so, all points earned that year by the member at the

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<sup>1</sup> Anywhere in this document that the term "Contest Chairperson" appears, it may also be interpreted as "Contest Committee," if applicable.

Modeler level will be transferred to the Craftsman level with them. A member who has established in the past that they are a Craftsman caliber modeler are not expected to enter at the Modeler level, but may discuss the issue with the Contest Coordinator.

### III. Categories

- A. The categories for each year's contests are determined by the Contest Coordinator. These categories should reflect a wide range of subject area, so modelers of all interests may participate.
- B. The list of categories for the coming year's contests will be published in the January issue of The DISPATCH.
- C. Each contest's category may, at the discretion of the Contest Coordinator, include multiple sub-categories. For example, the category "Motive Power" might include the sub-categories of "Diesel", "Steam", and "Electric & Other". Each sub-category is, in effect, handled as a separate contest, so a member may enter one model in more than one of the sub-categories, and accumulate points from each (see Scoring, below).
- D. Non-modeling categories, such as "Art & Photo," will be run in the same way as the modeling contests, but the points received will not be counted toward the **Modeler Of The Year** awards at the end of the year.

### IV. Scoring

*The contest scoring method is designed to promote and encourage contest participation.*

*Contest participants will accumulate point from each judged entry, which will be used to determine the **Modeler Of The Year** awards at the end of the year.*

- A. In each contest, each entry in a category (or sub-category) will be given a number that corresponds to a number on the ballot.
- B. All members are eligible to vote in the contests, with the exception of the Contest Coordinator (or the person running a particular contest).
- C. Members attending the contest will judge each entry by assigning a score from 0 to 10 (0 =poor, 10 = excellent), and mark that score next to that entry's number on their ballot.
- D. Only whole numbers may be used for scoring (no decimal places or fractions). Incorrectly marked or illegible scores will be discarded.
- E. Ballots which contain no valid scores will be discarded.
- F. Whenever possible, ballots will be provided which include guidelines for scoring the contest entries. These guidelines are determined by the Contest Coordinator, provided they are consistent with these rules.
- G. The final score for each entry is determined by taking the total of all scores entered on the ballots for that entry, and dividing that number by the total number of ballots cast. (note that it is divided by the total number of ballots cast, not by the number of scores

given for that entry, so it is not just a simple average. This means a ballot which does not contain a score for an entry is, in effect, a score of 0 for that entry.)

- H. These final scores for each entry will be used to determine the order of finish in each level. (Highest=1<sup>st</sup> place, next highest=2<sup>nd</sup> place, etc.)
- I. The cumulative totals of the final scores (“points”) for all of the models that each member enters throughout the year are used to determine the **Modeler Of The Year** award in both the Modeler and Craftsman levels.
  - 1. In the event of a tie, the member with the highest individual final score for an entry will be the winner.
  - 2. If this fails to break the tie, then co-Modelers Of The Year will be declared.
- J. The result of each month’s contest(s), along with the running points total for all entrants will be published in the DISPATCH
- K. As mentioned above, non-modeling categories, such as “Art & Photo,” will be run in the same way as the modeling contests, but the points received will not be counted toward the **Modeler Of The Year** awards at the end of the year.

## V. Awards

### A. Individual Contest Awards

- 1. At the end of each contest, prizes, such as ribbons, will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each of the two levels.
- 2. In the event of a tie, duplicate prizes will be awarded.

### B. Year End Awards

- 1. **Model Of The Year** – This award is presented to the Craftsman level model receiving the highest final score for a single entry during the contest year.
- 2. **Modeler Of The Year - Craftsman** – This award is presented to the Craftsman level member who receives the highest total of final scores for all entries during the contest year..
- 3. **Modeler Of The Year - Modeler** – This award is presented to the Modeler level member who receives the highest total of final scores for all entries during the contest year. A member who receives this award is not *required* to advance to the Craftsman level in future contests, but is encouraged to consider doing so.
- 4. **Best Artwork/Photo\*** – This award is presented to the member receiving the highest final score in the “Art & Photo\*” contest.
  - \* or equivalent non-modeling contest.