

## MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #151 LOREN NEUFELD

Loren Neufeld, 39, a member of the LSR, is MMR #151. He and his wife, Judith, live in Houston, Texas, and have a daughter, Sharon, and son, Sean. Loren works as a drafting designer for offshore pipelines, and in addition to railroading he enjoys traveling, camping, and fishing.

Like many of us, Loren got his start in model railroading as a boy, with an HO train set. College interrupted the hobby for a while, but after getting married and settling in Houston, he got back into it with a small layout—N scale this time—which was better suited to apartment life. In 1978, model railroading became more serious when he joined the N Crowd, Houston's NTrak group.

Loren was bitten by the contest bug when, at the suggestion of a friend, he entered a model in the LSR convention contest and took home the first place ribbon. He has since won other awards on local, regional, and national levels in both model building and model photography, and in recent years has run the contest at the local jamboree. The interest in contests naturally led to participation in the Achievement Program. He earned his first award, Structures, in 1980, and currently also holds certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, and Author. Earning the authorship award, he says, was particularly rewarding, because of the enjoyment of sharing ideas and techniques with other modelers.

Loren enjoys creating scenery and scratchbuilding detailed structures, especially if they relate to his family history. He has duplicated numerous structures in and around his family's hometown of Inman, Kan. He designed his home layout, the N scale Ozark & Great Plains, to include Inman as well as some favorite Ozark vacation spots. The O&GP is a fictional railroad running from Kansas City southwest through central Kansas, then turning east through the Ozarks of northern Arkansas before terminating in St. Louis.

As a hobby, Loren says, model railroading has so many different facets that it's impossible to get bored with it. He wholeheartedly supports the NMRA and the Achievement Program in particular, and credits the AP with providing the incentive to learn and develop many new modeling skills and techniques. He says, "Almost any model railroader can find one of the AP categories that matches his main interest, and the pleasure of earning recognition for one's achievements provides tremendous encouragement to explore other areas of the hobby."



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