



MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #133 DALE G. KRAUS

Dale G. Kraus, 43, is MMR 133. Dale is an NMRA Life Member who lives in Spanaway, Wash., with his wife, Diane. He is the owner of Pacific Railway Enterprises, an umbrella organization for Pacific Railway Hobbies, a railroad hobby shop in Tacoma; Pacific Railtours; and Enigma-Tech, which is a manufacturer of Z scale products. His involvement in this operation is that of master patternmaker and product designer. Pacific Railway Enterprises was begun after Dale served in the USAF for 13 years and today is a Major in the Reserves.

Dale became interested in trains at age 12 when he received his first train set. He joined the NMRA in 1961. He is a member of the Tacoma Chapter of the NRHS and served as president for seven years. As a member he was involved with the preservation and restoration of engines and railroad equipment on the Point Defiance, Quinalt, and Klickitat Railroad in Tacoma. In the summer he serves as engineer on Pacific Coast Shay No. 7 and is qualified to operate their

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Ohio steam locomotive crane. His current project is restoration of a 40-ton Davenport 0-4-0T.

Dale's official involvement in NMRA activities included serving as member of Division 4, PNR BOD, chairman of two division meets, and chairman of the 1981 PNR convention. He continues to present clinics and writes for divisional and regional publications.

His model railroading interests are centered around Central European railways, specifically South German, Swiss, and Austrian railroads of the late 1950's. His layout is the Sudwest Deutsche Eisenbahn Verein, a trunk line through the alpine foothills, and it includes a branch line to the Bodensee and a 76cm narrow gauge line. The operational concept features steam and heavy electric trains, extensive local freight operations, and through and local passenger runs.

Dale's HO layout is located in a two-car garage. Scenery is 90 percent complete. Rubber molds of lumps of coal create rock work in the hard shell. It is colored with acrylics and finished with ground foam and several thousand "weed" trees.

He holds AP certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Chief Dispatcher, Electrical, and Volunteer. He got into the AP after winning first place with a model in the SSR '72 convention contest. He enjoys model railroading as a hobby that can be enjoyed all year long and as an escape from the "real world" because he can control all aspects of the model world. The only rule in that world is that there are no rules. He enjoys meeting the people who are part of the hobby. The AP has encouraged him to improve his modeling skills. It has had the direct result of making the hobby more fun and enabled Dale to exercise his creativity. That, he remarks, is probably what it is all about.