



NMRA BULLETIN

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2008 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:

Anaheim, CA • July 13 – 19, 2008 • Info: • <http://http://as2008.org/>
Train Show Booth Reservations—Debbie Draper, HLM, Registrar • 10837 N. 34th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85028-3310 • (602) 569-9072 • nattrainshow@aol.com
2009—Hartford, CT • 2010—Milwaukee, WI • 2011—Sacramento, CA

HEADQUARTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 2008

NMRA PATENT CHALLENGE UPDATE: REAL RAIL EFFECTS FAILS TO RESPOND TO NMRA DCC-SOUND PATENT CHALLENGE

The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.

RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.

The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will

be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

www.NMRA.org

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NMRA INCLUDED IN 2008 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

By: Roger L. Cason, MMR
NMRA Fund Raising Manager

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) takes place in federal work places once a year. In many ways, this campaign is similar to a United Way solicitation. Employees can make contributions to charitable organizations of their choice via payroll deduction.

We have been notified that — for the first time — the NMRA will be included in the next CFC campaign — projected for the fall of 2008. This is in response to our application for inclusion (59 pages, including attachments).

Bottom line: if you are a federal employee and you wish to make a financial contribution to the NMRA, you may want to consider the CFC as the mechanism for making your contribution. We will be listed under "National/International Independent Organizations." Our identification number will be **12286**.

ADDRESS CHANGE? BACK ISSUES OR REPLACEMENT ISSUES OF *SCALE RAILS*?

Members needing to make address changes, request back issues, or replacement issues of *SCALE RAILS* should contact the staff at the national headquarters office in Chattanooga, Tennessee, at (423) 892-2846 or by email at nmrahq@aol.com.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

*Indicates first Certificate of Achievement

MAY 2008

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NMRA

Future convention dates

(Note: Convention dates are from Sunday to Saturday - Last date of NTS is one day later)

Hartford	July 5 - July 11, 2009
Milwaukee	July 11 - July 17, 2010
Sacramento	July 3 - July 9, 2011
Grand Rapids	July 29 - Aug 4, 2012

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Fill out this form, include your payment of \$9.95 (U.S. funds only) and mail it to: NMRA - Rail Pass Membership, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119. Or sign up online at www.nmra.org.

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