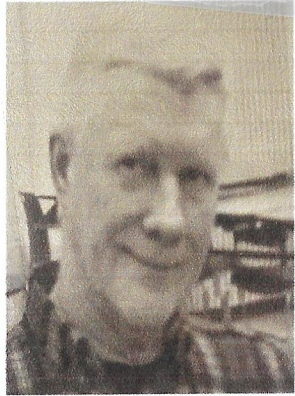


Paul Scoles Earns MMR 331



Paul Scoles has been a model railroader for 50 years. Marx, and later Lionel, trains were annual Christmas gifts in his youth, but the discovery of HO trains in 1954 cemented his love for the hobby. Although he was

inactive during his high school and college years, Paul resumed modeling after serving a tour in Vietnam while in the Army. By this time the narrow gauge bug had bitten, and Paul began building a large HO_{n3} layout, the Pelican Bay Railway & Navigation Co.

In an effort to improve loco performance, Paul and several friends began using micro motors. The results were very satisfying, and in 1976 Paul and fellow HO_{n3} modeler Lonnie Shay published a two-part series on micro motors in *Model Railroader* magazine. Many modelers feel this series changed the hobby by paving the way for better motors and gearboxes, in both imported and domestic

locomotives.

By 1980 Paul had become interested in Sn3, finding it more operationally reliable and easier to build in. Thus, the Sn3 version of the Pelican Bay Railway & Navigation Co. was born. Since the mid '70s Paul has dabbled in model photography, doing considerable experimenting with a medium format camera and pin-hole lens. The goal was to produce the kind of depth of field found in prototype railfan photos. In 1985 he was invited to join Dave Frary, Malcolm Furlow, and John Olson in writing a book about model photography for Kalmbach Books. Titled *A Treasury of Model Railroad Photos*, the book was released in 1991, and featured the distinctly different styles and approaches to photography of the four authors.

Over the years Paul has used his photography skills to do magazine photo stories of many layouts, including his own. Articles on scenery, locomotive construction, scratchbuilding structures, as well as layout stories have appeared frequently in *Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette*, *Model Railroader*, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, and *Sn3 Modeler*. To date Paul has some 60 articles to his credit. His layout also found its way into a Green Frog Productions video in 1999.

The Sn3 PBR&N was begun in 1994, and fills most of a 22' x 46' basement. It's a common carrier railroad, in the manner of the South Pacific Coast, set in Northern California in 1895. Monthly operating sessions are held with six or seven operators putting the layout through its paces using a timetable and train orders. With 14 locomotives, 100 freight cars, and 18 passenger cars, operators are kept busy for several hours. Asked who had influenced him the most, he replied, "Two guys named Allen. John Allen showed us the artistic possibilities and Allen McClellan showed us what was attainable in model railroading. My layout is a reflection of both influences."

Paul is a graduate of the University of Arizona, an audio engineer, and owner of a large recording studio in Seattle. He's married to a very supportive wife, Cindy, and has one son, Eric, a police officer. Paul is now teaching his grandson how to be a pitcher.

Paul Scoles has received Certificates of Achievement for Master Builder-Cars, Master Builder-Structures, Master Builder-Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Chief Dispatcher and Model Railroad Author.