



Jack Burgess

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #136 JACK BURGESS

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MMR #136 is Jack A. Burgess of the PCR. Jack lives in Newark, Calif., in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife Jacque, son Mark, and daughters Melisa and Julie. He works for the City of Newark as a civil engineer responsible for street design and construction.

Jack has always had an interest in building models. He first became interested in model railroading while in junior high school, but soon put it aside because of cost and the inability to find anyone who could help him understand how to wire Atlas custom line turnouts.

He cautiously re-entered the hobby in 1965 with the construction of a 2' x 6' layout. To save money, all cars and buildings were scratchbuilt and track hand-laid. In fact, most of the track was in place before the budget allowed for acquisition of an engine and power pack. He soon came under the influence of another modeler in the area and began scratchbuilding prototype freight car equipment as well as upgrading his own standards for construction. He soon selected the Yosemite Valley Railroad, which operated between Merced and El Portal during the years 1906 to 1945, as a prototype.

Jack became a member of PCR and NMRA in the early 1970's. He entered an HO scratchbuilt model of Yosemite Valley Railroad Caboose 15 in the 1973 PCR model contest and, to his amazement, took a first place. This event led to both a continuing interest in modeling contests as well as even higher standards for his own modeling.

At about the same time, Jack completed construction of a 1/4 full size steam cab backhead which duplicated all the features of a steam locomotive. This project caught the eye of Tony Koester, then editor of RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN. This friendship began a long association with articles for commercial

press including RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN, MODEL RAILROADER and THE NARROW GAUGE AND SHORTLINE GAZETTE.

Jack's current layout is a multi-level layout based on the Yosemite Valley Railroad as it existed in August 1939. The prototypical fidelity of the layout as well as modeling abilities has led to continual requests for visits by other model railroaders. The layout is also regularly open for conventions in the area as well as the local round-robin group, The Fiddletown and Copperopolis Switching and Historical Society. This group was organized by Jack 20 years ago and still continues to operate without officers, dues or rules. Jack is also vice president of the Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources (SPCRR), a group of enthusiasts locating and restoring Carter Brothers railroad cars, and operating the cars on a 3-foot gauge horse drawn railroad at Arden-

wood Historic Farm in Newark/Fremont, Calif. His wife Jacque is general manager of SPCRR and a railroad enthusiast herself.

Jack's involvement in contest modeling and commercial writing led to a natural involvement with the Achievement Program. Since all work on his large layout is done by himself, satisfying the necessary requirements for the individual AP certificates came naturally as work on the layout progressed. Jack feels that the AP program is an excellent way to encourage modelers to expand their area of expertise and take on projects in areas that they might otherwise feel unqualified.

Jack holds certificates for Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, Author and Prototype. The last certificate for Prototype is a new certificate and a natural for someone like Jack who models a specific prototype.