

Achievement Program

Hobby began after knee surgery *Yungclas earns MMR No. 211*

Richard (Rich) Yungclas began his modeling career on Christmas Day, 1979, when his son, Kevin, gave him a Tyco train set. Rich said he received the gift because he was looking for a hobby while he recovered from knee surgery.

Rich became involved in the Achievement Program when Ron Williams, MMR, judged his layout during the Mid-Continent Region convention of 1988. Rich said it was the beginning of an educational experience, sometimes frustrating, mostly pleasurable. Someone was always available to help him with the frustrations or teach him new skills, he said.

Merit judging is Rich's favorite part of the Achievement Program.

"A merit award says that you have built a very good model. If your model doesn't receive a merit award, someone will sit down with you and discuss or show you ways to improve the skills needed to earn the honor.

"Everyone 'wins,'" Rich said.

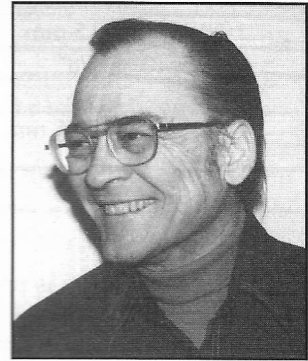
Earning the certificates needed for the MMR award has been gratifying, he said, but so has making new friends and meeting many fine people through the AP program.

Rich's Boone River Railroad is an HO-scale, Midwestern, early-diesel layout covering half of his basement. The layout was named for a river near a farm where Rich grew up, and for a new central air conditioner installed in the house. "The BRRR reporting marks seemed very appropriate," Rich said.

Rich is a 23-year veteran of the Ames, Iowa Electric Distribution Department, where he is presently line foreman.

In addition to model railroading, Rich also enjoys gardening. Rich holds certificates for cars, structures, scenery, civil engineering, electrical engineering, association volunteer and author. Though he has earned his MMR, he is still active in the AP. He is currently working on his motive power certificate.

Rich is 52 years old. He and his wife, Maggie, have four children, Allen, Kevin, Julie and John — and of course a family dog, Dusty. •



Rich Yungclas